

THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION MAGAZINE | SPRING 2020

SPIRIT



The Grape State of Texas

Determined to put Texas wines on the map, Texas A&M University pours resources, research and love into winemaking.

Honored in Aggieland



As I write this letter, I am reminded of a life-long lesson I learned as a freshman in the Corps of Cadets. The lesson was simple: No matter how prepared my fish buddies and I thought we were for each morning's formation and inspection, we were never really in control of the situation presented by our upperclassmen. We were, however, in control of how we responded. That lesson has served me well over the years in situations ranging from combat to the loss of family and friends to leading organizations.

Given the situation our nation faces as a result of COVID-19, I'm having to remind myself of that lesson more than ever. This crisis has and will continue to be a situation that leaves many of us wanting more control. Crisis scenarios bring out the best and worst in people, organizations and governments, but they also create opportunities for those same entities to evolve in meaningful ways. Texas A&M University faculty and practitioners are doing their part to respond to the pandemic by helping educate the public about COVID-19 and engaging in research to combat the virus itself.

At the Texas A&M Foundation, our mission remains focused on building a brighter future for the university. During this time, we've focused heavily on the relationships we hold with our donors and academic partners, because a sense of community, adherence to the Aggie core values and a network of support are more important than ever during times like these. To that end, we have also created the Texas A&M University Disaster Relief Fund for students, faculty and staff financially impacted by the pandemic. Because the short and long-term financial ramifications of COVID-19 are still unknown, our team has also worked overtime to ensure that our endowment is performing at its best and that we are properly diversified and rebalancing when necessary.

For as long as I have been a member of the Aggie community, I have maintained that Texas A&M's greatest strength and defining feature is its people. It goes without saying that the rapid and benevolent response from our students, faculty and staff to this unprecedented emergency has been emblematic of everything for which this great university stands. If we have learned one thing, it is that we exhibit unrivaled strength when we act as a community. We will need that continued strength as we work together with our friends, colleagues and families to regain our footing again. But first, we need to remember what exactly we are working toward.

The stories featured in this issue of Spirit were prepared before the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in the United States. After the situation escalated and major social distancing measures were implemented, the Spirit editors and I briefly considered whether it was appropriate to publish this magazine as is. However, we quickly realized that the stories we had prepared—stories of leadership, generosity and Aggies making a difference in others' lives—are stories we could all probably use right now. This pandemic has forced us to go without many of the things we take for granted. In the face of uncertainty, let us remember the good we still have, and all that is still waiting for us on the other side. Let us also never forget that in times of crisis, we may not control the situation, but we do have control over how we choose to respond. At the Texas A&M Foundation, like many of you, we choose to lead by example.

We join with you in prayer and in faith that this crisis will leave our communities and our Aggie values even stronger and more resilient. We hope our paths cross again soon after the pandemic. Until then, we will continue to pray for your good health, blessings and prosperity.

Thanks for all you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyson Voelkel '96'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Tyson Voelkel '96

PRESIDENT, TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION

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Howdy,
Luke Benignus '22

Passionate about building construction and collecting coins, Luke Benignus '22 is drawing up plans for his career.

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The Heart of Texas Wine Country

I love revealing that I'm from Fredericksburg, because it's one of the few small Texas towns where you don't have to explain the location using a reference point to the nearest large city. People just know Fredericksburg. It has always been a popular getaway for Texans and non-Texans alike—its quaint Main Street, German architecture and heritage, abundance of peaches and antiques, and the surrounding Hill Country have attracted folks for decades. Plus, it's one of the few holdouts in the U.S. where drinking alcohol on the street is legal. (Just on Main Street.)

Today, though, most people are familiar with Fredericksburg for one thing: wine. The wine industry's boom in the region has been incredible to witness, especially as a local from Fritztown (as we locals call it). Fredericksburg actually claims some of the oldest wineries in the state, but it wasn't until the last decade or so that the number of wineries really exploded. Today, the Texas Hill Country American Viticultural Area, or grape-growing region, covers nine million acres, making it the second largest in the nation. At its epicenter, Fredericksburg is home to more than 40 wineries and tasting rooms, not to mention dozens more located within an hour or two drive.

The area is so popular that Highway 290 leading into Fredericksburg from Austin is now dubbed the 290 Wine Trail, and many wineries along the route boast satellite tasting rooms on Freder-

icksburg's Main Street as well. The area's vineyards, which focus on warmer-weather grapes, each have their own personality and wine-making style but share a common commitment to quality and hospitality. Collectively, these wineries have helped Texas become the nation's fifth largest wine producer.

Even though I can't claim a role in its success, I feel a bit proud by association to highlight the Texas wine industry in this issue's cover feature on page 18. More specifically, I am excited that Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are using research and resources to help put Texas wines on the map. From studies in the labs and experiments in the fields to educational outreach by extension specialists, Aggies are helping ensure a smooth journey from vine to wine.

So, the next time you're craving the perfect glass, think closer to home. Think Fredericksburg. Coupled with everything else the town has to offer and the amazing Hill Country views to enjoy as you sip...it's guaranteed to be a sweet trip.

Duna Reader

Duna Reader '15

EDITOR, SPIRIT MAGAZINE

Letters

Kindness Pays Off

Thanks for the superb article about Old Army Lou in the fall 2019 issue of Spirit magazine. What a fine man—a dedicated, die-hard Aggie and humanitarian supreme.

My most memorable experience with Lou occurred during my freshman year in the Corps of Cadets in 1965. Three of my fish buddies and I went out “on the town” cruising the streets of College Station and Bryan. We were 18 years old and drinking illicitly-obtained beer. Having consumed too much, we stopped in a parking lot and relieved ourselves. Local police arrested us for public lewdness (or some such misdemeanor) and minor possession and took us to the station for booking. Our bail was set at \$50 each. None of us had bail money.

One of the guys’ fathers could have pulled some strings to have this taken care of, but he was not about to call him. We resorted to calling Lou, probably around 1 or 2 a.m. He came immediately, greeted us like we were his sons and posted all our bonds. When asked about paying him back, he told us just to pay him back when we could. The amount didn’t matter to him; he was just helping young Aggies. We never heard from local police again, and we all paid Lou back within the month with profuse thanks.

May this fine man rest in peace, hopefully knowing that he gratuitously helped so many young people.

—JOHN PAVLAS '69
Houston, Texas

TOWN HALL ATTRACTION
The Town Hall series annually brings well-known entertainment features to the A&M campus, including the Kingston Trio, who performed here two years ago. The attractive slate for 1966-66 includes: "The Letter-men," Oct. 22; opera star Jan Peerce, Nov. 9; Johnny Cash, Nov. 24; and "Les Feux Follets," Feb. 15. Admission is free to students who purchase activity cards.

Many Dances Are Held
Several weekends during the year, Aggies bring their dates to the campus, dress in their finest, and attend the various balls held in Shada Dining Hall. Each class has its own ball during the year. The Fish Ball is usually held just after the beginning of the spring semester. It is an occasion when the freshman dons his best Class A uniform and prepares for the brightest weekend of his fish year. Other dances which freshmen may attend are the Cotton Ball and all dances held for the student body in the Memorial Student Center basement and Ballroom. Army cadets of all classes don their best fatigues for the Combat Ball, another annual dance feature. The setting for this dance is usually some historic combat zone, as well as faculty and staff attending dress accordingly. Air Science cadets have their individual ball in a little more splendor, with the Air Force Ball being a formal affair.

ies Provide sion, Debate
The two factions of the Corps combine each spring on the night following the Army's Combat Ball for another highlight, the Military Ball. This is a formal affair.



Consider Book Policy You Buy

LOUPOT Has Top Standing Among Merchants, Students

A small, maroon and white building at the West edge of North Gate has a traditional standing book in the business atmosphere of the A&M College area as well as the personal life of its students. Inside Loupot's Trading Post, the Aggies will find one of the best friends they can make while at A&M, J. F. Loupot, '32. He is not hard to spot, being a little more than thin, a little lacking in hair, and with an over-prudent grin. Old Army Lou, as many have come to know him, has many ties with A&M, dating back to 1923, when he entered A&M as a fish. After leaving A&M a few years later, he tried business in other parts of the state. But after a few years, Loupot decided he could do more for the Aggies, and his alma mater, right here in College Station. So he returned and set up a small shop at North Gate. Determined to make his future here, Loupot moved his business to its present location in a modest brick and stone building across from the new dormitory area in 1942. Partially destroyed by fire in the fall of 1963, the building has subsequently been remodeled to provide even better service. Old Army Lou, as many have come to know him, has many ties with A&M, dating back to 1923, when he entered A&M as a fish. After leaving A&M a few years later, he tried business in other parts of the state. But after a few years, Loupot decided he could do more for the Aggies, and his alma mater, right here in College Station. So he returned and set up a small shop at North Gate. Determined to make his future here, Loupot moved his business to its present location in a modest brick and stone building across from the new dormitory area in 1942. Partially destroyed by fire in the fall of 1963, the building has subsequently been remodeled to provide even better service.

POT'S



for your friendship, podner. Bring in the books, men. still makes the deal on your books. Loupot

Hats off to Old Army Lou! Readers shared their own stories about Aggeland icon Judson Loupot '32, who was featured in the fall 2019 issue of Spirit.

“If not for Lou’s generous terms, I would have had a much more difficult time with college expenses.”

—FOSTER WEBB '62

Generosity on Loan

When I enrolled at Texas A&M in 1958, everyone registered for classes and paid tuition in Sbis Dining Hall. I was short \$57 and was directed to a man overseeing student loans. After signing a note for \$100, he took \$57 to pay my school bill and gave me \$43 back. When I voiced that I hoped it would be enough for books, he told me not to shop at the campus bookstore, but to go to Loupot’s on Northgate. He said that Loupot’s had much better terms.

I went to Loupot’s for books, but Lou told me to keep my \$43 because I would need it for other expenses. I distinctly remember him telling me to take good care of the books he provided me because they needed to be in good condition for him to buy them back at the end of the semester. By the end of my fish year, I owed Loupot’s quite a bit. I got an oilfield job in West Texas the summer between my freshman and sophomore year, which allowed me to pay him back, but I was in debt to him again by the end of my sophomore year.

I paid that debt by working a summer job with Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, where I spent 40 years after graduation. However, I entered my senior year in debt again. The situation went downhill from there, because I met my wife, Dona, the weekend of the Baylor game and we were married during Easter break in 1962, before graduation. I finally cleared my tab with Lou five or six months after graduation. He sent me a nice letter when I paid him, saying that he appreciated my business.

The bottom line is this: If not for Lou’s generous terms, I would have had a much more difficult time with college expenses. I bet there is no one like Old Army Lou around the Texas A&M campus anymore, and that is truly a shame. I will forever have fond memories and great appreciation for what Old Army Lou did for me.

—FOSTER WEBB '62
Kingwood, Texas

Aggie Royalty

I remember seeing Lou behind the counter at Loupot’s when I attended Texas A&M in the late ’80s and early ’90s. After I graduated, I moved to Austin. Back in 2012, I was in the parking lot of Central Market when I saw an older woman decked out in Aggie gear leading her grandson, also in Aggie gear, to an SUV with a magnetic real estate sign on the door that said “LOUPOT.”

I stopped to inquire if she was related to Old Army Lou. Turns out, she was his daughter and an extremely proud Aggie. I told her I remembered her father fondly, and we reminisced about him for a couple of minutes. It was like meeting Aggie royalty! The experience is up there with the time I shook the hand of Aggie All-American Charlie Kreuger ’58, and when I sold my house to the granddaughter of James Earl Rudder ’32.

—SEAN C. MALLOY '92
Tomball, Texas

Share Your Comments: *We always enjoy receiving our readers’ reactions to Spirit. If the magazine’s content moves you to write, please send a note or email us at info@txamfoundation.com.*

DUNAE READER '15
Editor

digitaldialogue



I was introduced to Old Army Lou when I arrived for my first orientation weekend. I registered for classes and had the list of books and supplies I needed. Loupot’s was the first stop after that. During the next four years, I always started my book hunt there—Lou had the best selection of used books. He ALWAYS made students feel like they mattered.

—MIKE OSBORNE '83
Fountain Hills, Arizona

I earned two bachelor’s degrees while at Texas A&M, and I always shopped at Loupot’s Bookstore for textbooks and school supplies. Prices were very reasonable back then even though money was tight!

—MANUEL TAMAYO JR. '75 '78
Sacramento, California

I worked for the Loupots in 1962 and 1963. Lou and Mama Lou were good people, and those that worked there were like family. I have very good memories with these legends!

—PAT WINDHAM
College Station, Texas

As a senior squadron commanding officer in 1958, I could not afford a sabre. I recall that Mr. Loupot would provide a sabre and scabbard if you recommended his store to the freshmen in your outfit, which I did.

—JAMES R. PORTER '58
Abilene, Texas



Virtual Livestock Learning

Students in the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science can sharpen their cattle working skills thanks to a simulation created by Nicholas Free '19. The senior animal science major designed CowSim, an interactive video game that demonstrates basic cattle handling techniques and teaches players how to move cattle from one place to another.

Texas A&M University animal science major Nicholas Free '19 developed an interactive video game that teaches players how to handle cattle.

CowSim has three sections. The first portion teaches behaviors required to handle cattle in an open environment, while the second illustrates techniques for driving livestock in a production facility. The final section allows players to use knowledge gained to herd cattle through an obstacle-filled facility.

Dr. Luis Tedeschi, associate professor and fellow for animal nutrition, said the game represents a strong example of alternative teaching methods. "Given the media orientation of today's students, video games provide an exciting opportunity to catch their attention and deliver the desired information," he said. "The combination of educational gaming and virtual reality has the potential to attract a greater audience and deliver the same information as a traditional lecture."

Coding the Way

Last October, Texas A&M University hosted the world's first international Datathon, a student-run event that challenged participants to apply their data science knowledge to real-world situations. Of 2,000 applicants from 130 universities and 95 different majors, 650 scholars ranging from college freshmen to Ph.D. students were selected to participate.

During the event, participants spent more than 30 consecutive hours in company-sponsored competitions

and were afforded the opportunity to learn from world-renowned data scientists. Students prepared by honing their skills in programs like Python and MATLAB while also brushing up on data science basics.

Encouraged by the success of its inaugural weekend, the event's leadership team plans to make Datathon an annual event to increase awareness of data science among students of all levels, majors and genders. "Through events like



Datathon, Texas A&M is in a unique position to gain an international reputation as the university leading the way in data science," said Josiah Coad '19, a

triple major in computer science, mathematics and statistics who served as the event's lead.

Texas A&M hosted the world's first international Datathon, a student-run data science event.



Weather Watch



During the Texas A&M Maritime Academy's seven-week international training cruise last summer, Sea Aggies from Texas A&M University at Galveston deployed 16 drifting buoys between Hawaii and Seattle as part of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Global Drifter Program.

The buoys measure sea surface temperatures and ocean current velocities to develop weather forecast models, calibrate satellites, inform search and rescue planning, and map marine debris and oil spills. "The information collected by the buoys is the same data that creates the maps and charts our cadets use daily for maritime operations," said Capt.

Augusta Roth '96, department head of maritime transportation at the Galveston campus.

The buoys also provide key markers to aid in defining the global climate. "Both the maritime field and the nation are invested in global climate trends," Roth added. "The information collected by NOAA provides significant climate knowledge that impacts us all. Our partnership with NOAA aids our students in establishing awareness not only of weather safety as they embark on maritime careers, but also on the impact of climate variables within our industry. This type of hands-on training aboard the ship is invaluable."

What's one thing on your bucket list?

"Travel around Europe!"

Rebecca Bigelow '21
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

"End childhood illiteracy and put books into the hands of those who need them."

Eileen Lynch '21
COMMUNICATION

"Climb Mount Everest someday."

Robert "Zeke" Kollman '21
NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

"See penguins in Antarctica!"

Simon Holmes '21
COMMUNICATION

Rural Veterinarian Venture

While many graduating veterinary students accept jobs in suburban over rural areas, Texas A&M University's Veterinary Education, Research & Outreach (VERO) program is encouraging students to take a deeper look at rural veterinary careers.

The Food Animal Production Tour, a decade-old initiative in the VERO program, takes second- and third-year veterinary students on a six-day tour to West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) in Canyon, Texas, where the VERO program is housed.

During the tour, students explore the beef cattle, dairy cattle and swine industries, as well as mixed-animal veterinary practices through visits to local clinics. They also meet with the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and visit a Holstein feedlot, a packing plant and WTAMU's meat science facility. The tour provides insight into rural veterinary career paths and gives students field experience at WTAMU, located 200 miles from where 30% of the nation's beef cattle are raised.

"In visiting the area's dairies and feedlots, they see how these animals are actually cared for and the important leadership role that rural veterinarians play," said Dr. Dan Posey, VERO academic coordinator.



Texas A&M University's VERO program aims to recruit and train students to serve the Texas Panhandle's ranchers and livestock producers.



In respective rankings by Sports Illustrated and SmartAsset, a personal finance website, **College Station was named one of the nation's best college towns and least-stressed cities.**

Aggieland's iconic football traditions earned it the No. 9 spot among college towns, while low divorce and bankruptcy rates contributed to the city's stress-free rating.

Former Texas A&M football star and current Denver Broncos linebacker **Von Miller '11** has partnered with the **A.P. Beutel Health Center** to bring his outreach program, **Von's Vision**, to campus. The newly opened Von's Vision Center will provide Aggies in need with access to free, comprehensive eye exams and high-quality prescription eyewear.



A new certificate program in the College of Engineering will help students strengthen their entrepreneurial expertise. The 13-hour credit program, known as the Concept, Creation and Commercialization (C3) certificate, allows undergraduate and graduate students the chance to meet former student entrepreneurs, share ideas with potential employers and learn how to bring a product to market.





Standing Strong

Through a project funded by the National Science Foundation, researchers at Texas A&M University and the University of Colorado at Boulder are studying the effectiveness of using hybrid sliding-rocking (HSR) columns in bridge designs to protect against earthquakes.

A conventional bridge column is cast from concrete as one solid piece, making damage after an earthquake likely. HSR columns, however, are built as a series of individual concrete segments held together by steel cables that allow for controlled sliding and rocking. Post-ten-

sioning strands further ensure columns are pushed back to their original positions after an earthquake.

Such an infrastructure improvement could save thousands in taxpayer dollars. "By preventing bridge damage, we can maintain access to affected areas immediately after

earthquakes for response teams," said Dr. Petros Sideris, an assistant professor in Texas A&M's Zachry Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "In mitigating losses related to post-event bridge repairs and closures, more funds can also be directed to support-

ing the recovery of affected communities."

As their project continues, the team plans to study other aspects of HSR columns, such as how resistant they are to vehicular impact.

simple science



What Makes Me Hangry?

Has anyone ever told you, "You're not you when you're hungry?" There's a simple explanation: When we don't eat for long periods of time, our body's glucose levels drop, making it harder to control feelings of anger and irritability. In other words, being hangry is a real physiological condition!

In order for our brain to function properly, it needs glucose for energy. We get this energy source from the foods we eat—primarily carbohydrates. When blood sugar levels get low, certain hormones kick in that produce a hunger signal. If we ignore that signal and the urge to eat, it can lead to dizziness, nausea and, for some people, a short temper.

The best way to avoid or defeat hanger is to stay in tune with hunger feelings. "Many people experiencing hanger tend to grab the first foods they can get their hands on, such as candy or chips. These foods aren't the most nutritious and only temporarily raise blood sugar levels," said Dr. Jenna Anding '87, a Texas A&M University nutrition science professor and AgriLife Extension specialist. "If you start to feel hungry but your next meal is a couple of hours away, try to snack on foods like whole fruit, nuts, cheese or peanut butter crackers to fight off hanger pangs."

Researchers in Texas A&M's Zachry Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering are studying new earthquake-resistant bridge designs.

Work Bots

Dr. Ranjana Mehta, an associate professor in industrial and systems engineering, and Dr. Prabhakar Pagilla, a mechanical engineering professor, are researching human-robot interactions in the workplace.

Their research will study the behaviors of collaborative robots, which work side by side with individuals to complete repetitive tasks in fields such as manufacturing, mining, construction and energy. While these robots are equipped with advanced sensors and software designed to help them swiftly detect and adapt to intrusions in the workplace, the pair hopes to uncover more about how they process and respond to human emotions to help create safer and more efficient workplaces.

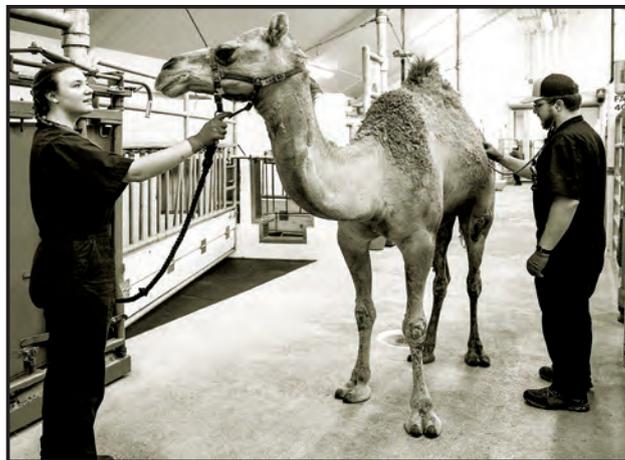
"Collaborative robotics is a growing technology and estimated to be a \$13 billion business by 2025," Mehta said. "It is timely to develop intelligent support mechanisms to enhance safer human-robot interactions."

Using wearable brain imaging technology, researchers will study the fatigue and stress states of Texas manufacturing workers while they interact with robots. As the robots process these emotions, they will use machine learning to guide their reactions to workers' cognitive states. With the gathered data, the team will develop an augmented reality assistant to help workers safely perform their jobs with collaborative robots.



Over the Hump

The Texas A&M University Large Animal Hospital usually treats horses and farm animals, but occasionally they encounter a rarer species, such as Sybil: a 7-year-old, pregnant dromedary camel that became one of the first of her kind to recover from a dislocated hip.



A surgical team at the Texas A&M University Large Animal Hospital performed a risky procedure to correct a dislocated hip in a dromedary camel.

When Sybil arrived at the hospital barely able to walk on her left hind leg, radiographs showed that her hip joint was dislocated out of its socket and her femur had moved far away from her pelvis. While dislocated hips are especially hard to treat in large animals, Sybil's owner, Dr. Ron McMurry, insisted Texas A&M veterinarians do everything possible to save her life.

Dr. Kati Glass '09, a clinical assistant professor in large animal surgery, and her team moved forward with a procedure that secured Sybil's hip in place. "We learn something new every time we perform a procedure like this, and that can make us more optimistic about future cases," Glass said.

Sybil is now home in Jasper, Texas, where she is back in the pasture with the rest of her family preparing for her baby.

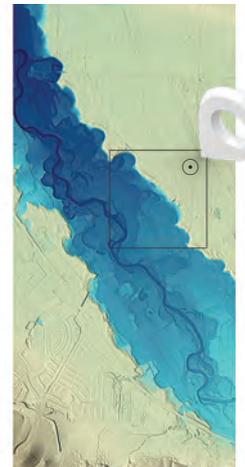
testresults



A new wireless surgical lighting device created by Sung Il Park, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, allows for illumination in the exact spot where a surgeon is working.

By providing high-light intensity in a precise area, Park's device could radically lower surgical risks in the operating room.

Researchers at Texas A&M University and the University of Tokyo have created what is perhaps the most accurate map of global freshwater hydrography ever made. Dubbed MERIT Hydro, the map uses complex computer algorithms to determine the shape of millions of Earth's rivers, lakes and canals. Its precision allows for the improved prediction of future flooding events across the world and estimates large-scale flood risks.



A healthier cereal is hitting supermarket shelves! Texas A&M Agrilife researchers created an all-natural black grain sorghum hybrid called Onyx that is being used in Grain Berry cereals. With

higher levels of antioxidants, Onyx sorghum can combat a spectrum of free radical threats to the body and slow sugar and carbohydrate absorption in the gut.



new gifts



Through a planned gift, Jennifer Bell '73 established two scholarships for students in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Safari Scholars

In 2012, Jennifer Bell '73, an advisory board member for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, journeyed to Africa for the first time with the Traveling Aggies program. The trip's lasting impression and her experiences as a board member inspired her to create two \$25,000 endowed scholarships through a bequest in

her estate to give veterinary students similar opportunities to experience the continent.

One of the scholarships will benefit Aggies pursuing a biomedical science degree, while the second will support biomedical science or veterinary students who participate in the college's African Wildlife Medicine Study Abroad program.

During the two-week program, 16 students have the opportunity to work with wildlife species such as rhinoceros, elephants, plains game, crocodiles, big cats and venomous snakes. South African wildlife experts provide lectures on best practices for animal capture and translocation, animal rehabilitation, conservation genetics re-

search and darting animals from helicopters. Additionally, approximately 60 hours of hands-on clinical work gives students a full experience of wildlife veterinary practices.

Since her first trip, Bell has traveled around Africa six times and become a wildlife photographer. "Africa is like my home away from home," she said. "Working with the

people, seeing their culture and photographing the animals there is an amazing experience I want all students to have. Hopefully, this study abroad program creates new career opportunities for participants."

Fueling Future Engineers



Lisa '81 and Matt Lawrence '81 gave a gift to support Texas A&M's Formula SAE Team.

Fueled by a passion for sports cars and racing and a desire to give back to the J. Mike Walker '66 Department of Mechanical Engineering, Lisa '81 and Matt Lawrence '81 recently established their first gift: \$60,000 to support Texas A&M's Formula SAE Team.

The department's Formula SAE program allows senior engineering students to apply classroom instruction to develop, build and test formula-style race cars. Each year, the team competes with its prototype race car against more than 500 university teams worldwide. Texas A&M's team has won seven competitions since its inaugural year in 1999, and Matt believes the team's success is a testament to the abilities of Aggie engineering students.

"As a retired mechanical engineer and manager at ExxonMobil, I wanted to support a program in the College of Engineering that inspires students to use their minds and hands to engineer, create and defend a finished design using imagination, technology, teamwork and communication skills," Matt said.

The couple's gift will support the construction of new formula race cars used in competitions. The Formula SAE team is self-funded, so donations help pay for competition-related expenses such as equipment, materials and registration fees.

A Gift Repaid



Agnes Hrcir created a scholarship to honor her late husband, Richard, for students enrolled in aggieTEACH, an undergraduate teaching certification program in the College of Science.

Inspired by financial support she received in nursing school, Agnes Hrcir established a scholarship for students in the College of Science enrolled in aggieTEACH, a program that certifies undergraduates to teach math and science at the middle and high school levels. Her gift pays tribute to her late husband, Richard, who taught math for remedial students in Rosenberg, Texas.

"Because my parents couldn't afford it, my uncle paid for my schooling to become a nurse," Hrcir said. "When I tried to pay him back after graduation, he refused and told me others would need that help in the future. Now, I can finally repay his gift."

Working as a campus nurse for Texas A&M University from 1947 to 1950, Hrcir grew to love the traditions and spirit of Aggieland. After marrying Richard, her admiration for the university influenced her entire family, as their daughters, Louise Hrcir '77 and Catherine Reiley '78, and granddaughter, Jennifer Reiley '16, later attended Texas A&M.

"With this gift, I want students to know they are not alone in their financial struggles," Hrcir said. "Just as my uncle helped me through nursing school, there are others who care and want to support them in the pursuit of their goals."

Meg '01 and Josh Hare committed a \$50,000 endowed gift to the Texas A&M University Women's Resource Center in memory of Meg's late mother, Elaine Lawler Ayers.

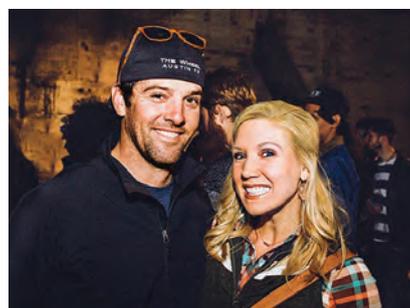
Empowering Aggie Women

In support of Aggie women, Meg '01 and Josh Hare committed a \$50,000 endowed gift to the Texas A&M University Women's Resource Center. Their gift was made in memory of Meg's late mother, Elaine Lawler Ayers, who championed many of the same values the center promotes—community, inclusion and equal access.

"As I've grown in my career, I've found it exceptionally important and personally rewarding to foster the growth and development of younger women in my organization," Meg said. "I work in technology and while succeeding as a woman in this field can be challenging, I strongly believe in the power of lifting up other women."

Since 2001, the Women's Resource Center has provided crucial programs for Aggie women, including salary negotiation workshops, International Women's Day and the Elect Her conference, which teaches leadership skills and campaign techniques for women interested in seeking future political office.

"Programs like these provide vital skills to advance young professional women," Meg added. "We need more women with a seat at the table, and I look forward to seeing more Aggie women in corporate and civic leadership roles in the future!"



A gift from Col. Hal Schade '67 given in honor of his parents, Sue and Col. Tom Matthews, funded a four-day research excursion last summer that allowed 12 oceanography students to gain experience at sea. The students set sail in the Gulf of Mexico aboard the R/V Point Sur, where they worked 12-hour shifts, took water samples and conducted research to help inform future oil spill responses.



Company E-2 in the Corps of Cadets has the special privilege and responsibility of caring for Reveille, Texas A&M's beloved mascot. In the early 1960s, Al Wheeler '63 served as the company's commanding officer. Recently, he and his wife, Judi, created a \$500,000 planned gift to fund a Keepers of the Spirit scholarship endowment for future E-2 cadets.



Avi and Debra Naider created a \$250,000 scholarship endowment for Texas A&M School of Law students in honor of Bobby Ahdieh—Avi's friend and dean of the law school. Inspired by Dean Ahdieh's willingness to help others when both were classmates at Princeton University, the gift recognizes the dean's dedication to service. The scholarship will support law students engaged in the school's clinics.



Six Reasons to “Give it Twice”

Planning a gift through a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust, also known as a “give it twice” trust, has many advantages with the donor in mind.

BY TORIE NOELLSCH

Estate planning can be eye-opening when considering the ways you can donate to a cause you’re passionate about while also financially supporting loved ones and taking advantage of tax benefits. Research today means having financial control in the future and realizing the full potential of every asset.

A testamentary charitable remainder unitrust, or “give it twice” trust, is increasing in popularity among Texas A&M Foundation donors because it allows you to leave a legacy while providing for loved ones, making it not only an impactful gift, but also a smart investment. During the Foundation’s 2019 fiscal year, seven “give it twice” trusts were established for a total of nearly \$15.5 million.

Included in your will or living trust, a “give it twice” trust is funded after your lifetime and provides payments to your loved ones for a term of years or their lifetimes. After the designated timeframe, the trust remainder is distributed for the benefit of Texas A&M University, as directed by the donor.

The trust offers six major advantages:

1. **Control and access to assets:** Since the trust is created and funded after your lifetime, you have complete control and access to your assets during your life.
2. **Support for loved ones:** You can provide a stream of payments to a surviving spouse, child, relative or other loved ones during the life of the trust.
3. **Professional management:** Assets are professionally managed in the trust, removing that burden from your loved ones.
4. **Flexibility in estate planning:** You control the amount given to fund the trust, while retaining the flexibility to distribute other items of your estate as you wish.
5. **Favorable tax benefits:** There is an estate tax deduction for the charitable gift. Additionally, “give it twice” trusts funded with retirement accounts and other assets containing tax-deferred income are received into the trust without the anticipated taxation.
6. **Generously benefits Texas A&M:** At the end of the trust term, the remaining assets in the trust are placed in your endowment at the Foundation for the purpose you specify.

Stephen Huzar '93 is using a "give it twice" trust to pave the way for future Corps of Cadets scholarships and other university programs.



Huzar's gift will provide a payment stream for his sister and niece during their remaining lifetimes and support charitable causes he is passionate about. At the end of the trust's life, 90% of the remaining assets will be transferred to Texas A&M for Corps of Cadets scholarships and other university programs. The trust's flexibility allows him to easily use the other

A Life Story Legacy

Stephen Huzar '93 uses a "give it twice" trust to give back to the Corps of Cadets.

"The 'give it twice' trust was a perfect fit for me," said Stephen Huzar '93. "I don't have children, but I do want to leave my sister and niece a safety net during their remaining lifetimes. This gift enables me to do that while also being a good steward of what the Lord has given me."

While a "give it twice" trust fit financially, this Aggie's life story is what inspired his gift. When he was 13, Huzar's father, formerly a rocket scientist for NASA during Project Apollo, declined to failing health. "My mom effectively became a single parent and was very influential to me," he explained. "When the time for college arose, I scraped up money through summer jobs, while my mom helped find scholarships and financial aid. Without scholarships and my

experiences at Texas A&M, my life would be drastically different."

Huzar's involvement in the Corps of Cadets set him on a positive trajectory. "The tragic events just prior to college matured me, but I lacked confidence," he said. "The Corps helped prepare me to purposefully navigate life for the decades to come. Years later, I realized how much of my success was due to my Corps experiences, so I felt inspired to pave the way for future cadets."

Since earning his degree, the former student has become a successful CPA and uniquely weaves the Aggie core value of selfless service into his life. "I help lead and travel to Russia for an orphan ministry and, separately, serve on the board of a new church that I am helping establish in Colorado," Huzar shared. "I also have a love for biblical archaeology, which has compelled me to bring current Aggie cadets with me on annual trips to Israel."

10% to support his ministries as well.

Huzar said he wants his legacy to serve the greater good. "As a Christian, I believe earthly 'stuff' is meaningless in the long run. When people pass away, the only thing that truly belongs to them is their life story. That's what I care about—sharing the earthly possessions I've been blessed with in the hope that the Lord continues to use them to write similar stories through others." ©

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CREATING A "GIVE IT TWICE" TRUST, CONTACT:

ANGELA THRONE '03
BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER—
OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING
TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION
(800) 392-3310 OR (979) 845-5638
ATHRONE@TXAMFOUNDATION.COM

did you know

BY CHRYSAL HOUSTON

Texas A&M has more Fortune 100 corporate CEOs than any other university?

Aggies and leadership go together like a “howdy” and a firm handshake—a natural fit. That’s why it is no surprise that there are more former students of Texas A&M University leading Fortune 100 companies than graduates of any other university in the nation. We asked these four CEOs about their leadership philosophies, staying relevant in changing industries and how the companies they lead are building a better world.

ExxonMobil is working to reduce its emissions and is helping consumers do the same. “Ultimately though, to achieve society’s ambitions, new technologies are needed,” Woods said. That’s why ExxonMobil is conducting breakthrough research in lower-emission technologies, working with a variety of partners: 80 universities around the world, technology companies, private venture funds and the U.S. Department of Energy. “We believe ExxonMobil has an important role to play in helping solve the dual challenge,” he said.

Leading the company during an unprecedented time in the industry has its challenges. “How do you know what you don’t know?” Woods often asks himself. “Good leaders don’t need all the answers, but they must ask the right questions.

“I believe informed, thoughtful, challenging and constructive debate across the organization is essential,” he added. “The best results are achieved when you have talented people with the right mindset and a common set of values working together.”

Solving these important challenges motivates Woods. “Our commitment to raise the bar, hold ourselves to the highest standards and find better ways to meet the needs of communities around the world inspires each and every one of us,” he concluded.

2 RANKING

ExxonMobil

MARKET VALUE (\$ MILLIONS): \$342,172.00
REVENUE PERCENT CHANGE: 18.8%
EMPLOYEES: 71,000



Darren Woods '87

CEO, EXXONMOBIL

It’s an exciting time in the energy industry. As the Earth’s population continues growing, more people than ever need access to affordable and reliable energy. However, that energy must be produced in new, more sustainable ways. This is the dual challenge that ExxonMobil faces—and the work that Darren Woods undertakes as its chairman and CEO. The solutions won’t be easy, but they will make a lasting impact on the world.

Phillips 66

MARKET VALUE (\$ MILLIONS): \$43,240.70
REVENUE PERCENT CHANGE: 24.7%
EMPLOYEES: 14,200

23 RANKING

Greg Garland '80

CHAIRMAN & CEO, PHILLIPS 66

A simple leadership philosophy guides Greg Garland’s work: “Pursue excellence, build the capability of your team and always do the right thing.”

Garland began working for Phillips Petroleum Company soon after graduating from Texas A&M with a chemical engineering degree. During the next 39 years, he grew with the company, starting as a plastics engineer, taking on management responsibilities and eventually stepping into executive positions within different sub-

sidiaries of Phillips around the world. In 2012, he assumed the preeminent position at Phillips 66, leading all of its global operations.

“Leaders set the tone at the top, and that’s why it is so important to do the right thing,” said Garland. “If you don’t, others won’t either.” Part of doing the right thing is building communities and giving back. The company is committed to funding STEM and literacy programs, health and human services organizations, and environmental improvement.

A vital component of his leadership style is to create intentional interactions at all levels of the organization. “I try to be very accessible,” he said, which includes sharing meals with various employees to



Greg Garland '80

hear their concerns and feedback. “We are working to build an environment of trust, where everyone feels they are valued and their voice can be heard.”

Bruce Broussard '84

CEO, HUMANA

As a leader in health care for nearly 30 years, Bruce Broussard has seen numerous technological changes that have reshaped the industry, but one thing has stayed the same: He’s still leading an organization that has a measurable impact on improving people’s lives every day. Doing work that serves a larger purpose is what keeps him engaged.

“Health care is undergoing a significant transformation, so it’s a wonderful time to be part of shaping its future, with the goal being a much more personalized and simple system for our nation’s health care consumers,” he said. Leading through seismic shifts means he must stay informed to stay relevant—not just about health care, but also public policy, technology and global influences.



David Cordani '88

65 RANKING

Cigna
MARKET VALUE (\$ MILLIONS): \$61.058.90
REVENUE PERCENT CHANGE: 16.9%
EMPLOYEES: 73,800

Curiosity is key. “The world is changing quicker than people can mentally keep pace. It requires everyone—leaders and non-leaders alike—to have a learning mindset,” he said. “As a leader, you’re no longer the ‘expert,’ and it’s more imperative than ever to look to employees deeper in the organization for answers. The most powerful leadership skill is the ability to ask insightful questions.”

In 2015, Broussard led the launch of Humana’s Bold Goal, a plan to improve the health of the communities it serves by 20% by 2020. The program initiated with seven major U.S. cities and has now expanded to 14. This goal serves as the company’s North Star. “I’m proud that it has not only been a rallying cry for our organization, but also that we’ve made great progress in making a difference in many communities,” he said. “I’m inspired by improving the health of society, as health enables individuals to fully live their lives.”

David Cordani '88

PRESIDENT & CEO, CIGNA

There’s a hint about David Cordani’s leadership style embedded in the way he talks about his team: He never mentions his 74,000 employees, but he frequently talks about his 74,000 colleagues.

“Leadership is not an organizational chart,” he said. “It’s not correlated to hierarchy. I deeply believe leadership is a gift you are given by those you lead.” Cordani asserts that the continuing success of his global organization is dependent on how his team is challenged, rewarded, equipped and inspired. The inspiration comes naturally. “Our company’s mission is to improve the health, well-being and peace of mind of those we serve. Every day, we try to make a difference in people’s lives and in the communities we operate in around the world. To me, that’s wildly energizing.”

He’s also inspiring others to succeed when he’s off the clock: Cordani serves wounded veterans as a marathon guide, helping them with their prosthetics, nutrition and hydration, and motivation to get them across the finish line. He recently co-authored the book, “The Courage to Go Forward: The Power of Micro Communities,” about this experience. The message is that when a small group of like-minded people unite to support a person with a dream, impossible things become possible. “You don’t need a huge infrastructure to make a difference,” he added. ☺

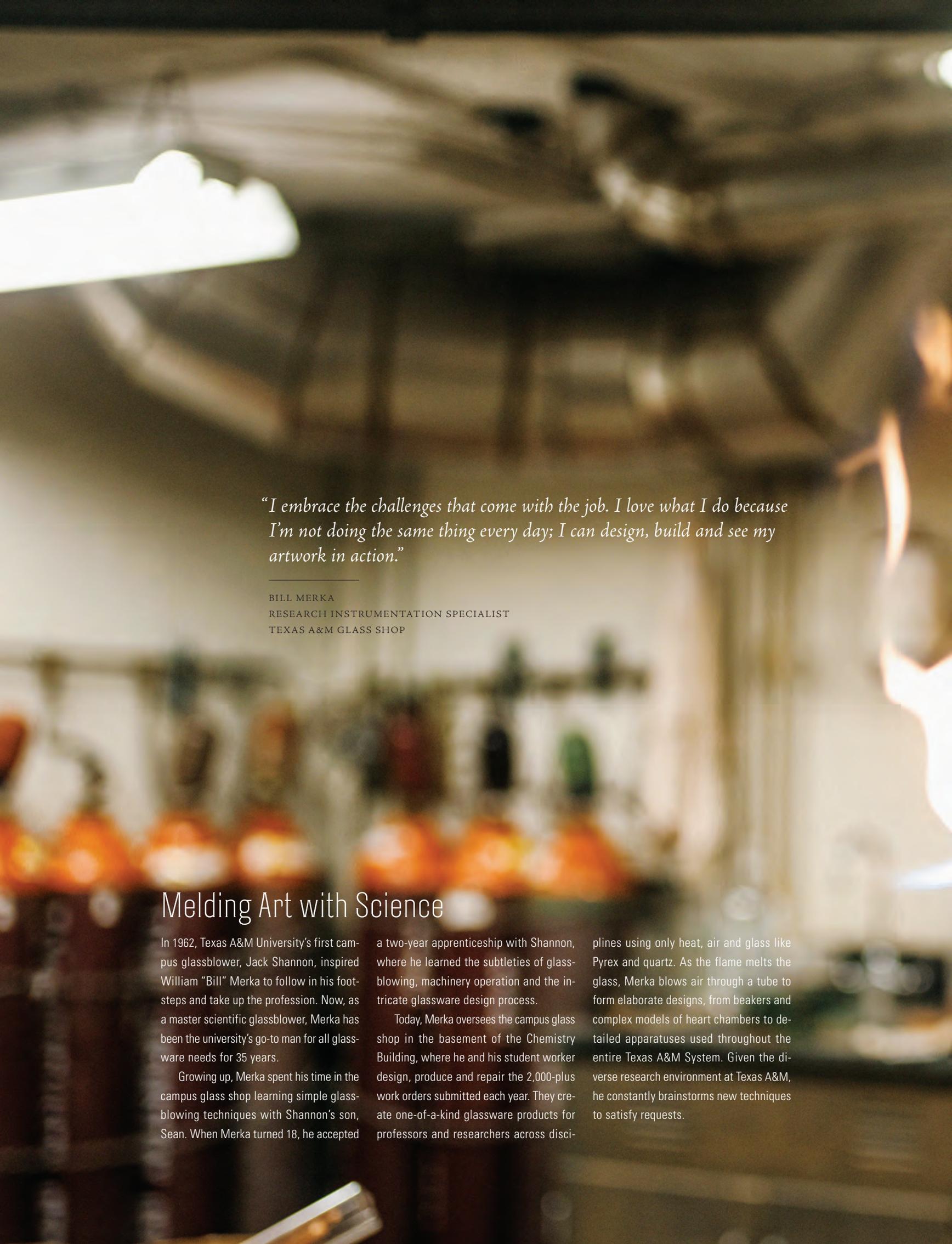
*Rankings data based on Fortune 500 as of Mar. 29, 2019

56 RANKING

Humana
MARKET VALUE (\$ MILLIONS): \$36,079.60
REVENUE PERCENT CHANGE: 5.8%
EMPLOYEES: 41,600



Bruce Broussard '84



“I embrace the challenges that come with the job. I love what I do because I’m not doing the same thing every day; I can design, build and see my artwork in action.”

BILL MERKA
RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION SPECIALIST
TEXAS A&M GLASS SHOP

Melding Art with Science

In 1962, Texas A&M University’s first campus glassblower, Jack Shannon, inspired William “Bill” Merka to follow in his footsteps and take up the profession. Now, as a master scientific glassblower, Merka has been the university’s go-to man for all glassware needs for 35 years.

Growing up, Merka spent his time in the campus glass shop learning simple glassblowing techniques with Shannon’s son, Sean. When Merka turned 18, he accepted

a two-year apprenticeship with Shannon, where he learned the subtleties of glassblowing, machinery operation and the intricate glassware design process.

Today, Merka oversees the campus glass shop in the basement of the Chemistry Building, where he and his student worker design, produce and repair the 2,000-plus work orders submitted each year. They create one-of-a-kind glassware products for professors and researchers across disci-

plines using only heat, air and glass like Pyrex and quartz. As the flame melts the glass, Merka blows air through a tube to form elaborate designs, from beakers and complex models of heart chambers to detailed apparatuses used throughout the entire Texas A&M System. Given the diverse research environment at Texas A&M, he constantly brainstorms new techniques to satisfy requests.

viewpoint



DETERMINED TO PUT TEXAS WINES ON THE MAP,
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY POURS RESOURCES, RESEARCH
AND LOVE INTO WINEMAKING.



THE GRAPE STATE OF

Texas

by JEANNIE RALSTON



Amy '84 and Tim Leach '82 own Frio Canyon Vineyard in Leakey, Texas. The couple has offered ample support to Texas A&M's viticulture programs, including an excellence fund for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Viticulture and Fruit Lab in Fredericksburg and a lead gift to establish The Gardens at Texas A&M and its accompanying Leach Vineyard.

FRIO CANYON VINEYARD

TAKE A TOUR OF AGGIE-LED
VINEYARDS AND WINERIES
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



BILL BLEDSOE '71 Poured a splash of white wine in a glass and beamed. "THIS IS A VERY NICE PINOT GRIGIO," HE SAID. "THE GRAPES ARE TEXAS GROWN. THERE'S A LOT OF CITRUS IN IT, A LOT OF DIFFERENT FLAVORS."

Bledsoe, owner and winemaker at Texas Legato Winery, confided that he hoped the wine would win gold at the San Francisco International Wine Competition, the nation's largest wine competition. "I've won bronzes and silvers before, but never a gold," he added. "I would love to see the word 'Texas' [as part of the winery's name] posted as a gold winner."

Bledsoe takes enormous pride in his own wine, grown on 21 acres outside of Lampasas, and in Texas wine overall. He's had much to be

proud of since 2002, when he and his wife, Sulyynn, planted their first crop of grapes. Today, they bottle up to 1,500 cases of wine per year, 90% of which is sold to the winery's visitors. Hung on the winery's tasting room wall are plaques with medals of various colors, but the golds displayed here are from wine competitions in the state and the region—not from California, which is why the winemaker is so hopeful to change that with his pinot grigio.

Bledsoe's first planting coincided with a spectacular growth in the Texas

wine industry. In 2001, there were 40 wineries in the state; today, there are 562. Currently, 5,600 acres of Texas farmland are planted with grapes, making Texas the nation's fifth largest wine producer. The economic impact of the wine industry in Texas is \$13 billion, largely from agritourism—when the public visits vineyards and wineries and buys wine and related goods on site.

Aggies like Bledsoe are at the forefront of the Texas wine boom, and with grapes and wine becoming important

ITALICS WINEGROWERS.

Taylor Martin '07 runs the family-owned Italics Winegrowers in Napa, California, with support from his parents, Anna '86 and Mike '87. The winery employs several Aggies, and Taylor would like to hire more. "We want to grow the Aggie presence in Napa Valley," he said. "I hope our internship program will build a team full of Aggie contributors over time."



Marty Clubb '80, owner of L'Ecole NO 41 in Walla Walla, Washington, along with his wife, Megan, said Texas A&M prepared him well for success. "Chemical engineering is at the heart of a good enology and winemaking program," he said. "My degree helped me create a quality wine program immediately at L'Ecole. Today, we are known for consistency and quality in every bottle." And he's not the only one who thinks so. For the 15th time, L'Ecole has been named to Wine & Spirits' "Top 100 Wineries of the Year" list.

L'ECOLE NO 41 WINERY



commodities in the state, it's only fitting that Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the AgriLife Extension Service take a leading role in the industry. Today, the college and the extension service are beefing up enology and viticulture programs to increase outreach to growers and winemakers.

At the forefront of those efforts is a new certificate in grape growing and winemaking, open to Texas A&M students of any discipline. The 15-hour program, which seeks to train Aggies for wine industry careers, gives students a solid understanding of the scientific principles of wine production, grape growing, pre- and post-fer-

mentation winemaking processes, and wine etiquette.

"Texas A&M is well positioned to help the industry grow," said Dr. Dan Lineberger, head of the Department of Horticultural Sciences. "There's a science and art to winemaking." With recent improvements to the department and big plans for the program's future, Lineberger predicts that Aggies are poised to become experts in both aspects.

THE TEXAS GRAPEVINE

The first wineries in Texas appeared in the late 1800s, if you don't include grapes cultivated by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Prohibition nipped

the industry in the bud, and it wasn't until the mid-1970s that grapes and wine reemerged. In 2015, when the Texas State Legislature passed a bill providing funding to hire Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service regional specialists, Texas A&M became more integrated in the state's wine industry. The extension service has specialists in some of Texas' main grape growing regions: Fredericksburg, Denton, Lubbock and College Station. "Specialists visit vineyards, help growers and conduct educational programs," said Lineberger. "These individuals have been key in ramping up our professional resources to help the industry."

Bledsoe credits Jim Kamas '77, a Texas A&M viticulture specialist in Fredericksburg, with helping him develop a pruning schedule to mitigate the impact of a late freeze, if one were to come. Another Aggie who partnered with the extension network is Tim Leach '82, CEO of Concho Energy and the owner of Frio Canyon Vineyard in Leakey, Texas. "We sought advice on where to locate our vineyard and, after soil testing, planted it in the right place on the mountain," he said. "We also chose varieties conducive to the climate. It seemed that we had every Aggie in the state working with us."

The extension service runs 30 to 40 educational programs per year in both viticulture and enology. Dr. Andreea Botezatu, a Texas A&M assistant professor and extension enology specialist, conducts numerous seminars to help wineries produce the highest quality wines, including a webinar series and a video series called Dr. B Talks Texas Wine. Grape Camp, a two-day event for both prospective and experienced viticulturists, covers the basics of Texas grape-growing. It also provides a forum where more experienced growers share their in-depth wisdom.

"We hope to educate people who are starting vineyards and wineries before they go into business," said Justin Scheiner '07, an assistant professor and extension viticulture specialist who teaches a survey course in grape growing at Texas A&M. "It's critical to get growers started on the right track to avoid serious pitfalls that can literally cost thousands of dollars."

ALL ABOUT THE FRUIT

For one, choosing the right grapes is key. Viticulture in Texas is challenging—unlike in California, which has near perfect conditions for grapes. "We

Dr. Andreea Botezatu (right), Texas A&M assistant professor and extension enology specialist, conducts seminars to help wineries produce the highest quality wines.



Wedding Oak Winery in San Saba, Texas, has several Aggie connections—investors Kim and Stephen Cooper '78, viticulturist Penny Adams '80 and winemaker Seth Urbanek '07 (above). The winery has a large Hill Country presence with additional tasting rooms in Fredericksburg and Burnet. Adams hopes Texas A&M's viticulture and enology programs can conduct more robust research and provide skilled labor for the growing industry. "I'd like to see research on the impact of climate change on fruit ripening in our hot growing conditions and development of mechanization practices," said Adams.

—WEDDING OAK WINERY



try to steer clear of varieties with compact clusters, because they are more prone to rot," said Scheiner. "And those that bud early, such as chardonnay, are at greater risk of damage from a late spring freeze." The most widespread variety is cabernet, which buds relatively late. Italian and Spanish grapes are also popular because the Texas climate mimics those regions.

Another major factor in grape selection is if the variety is resistant to Pierce's Disease, a bacterium that infects the water-conducting tissues of grapes and causes a rapid collapse of the vines. Two varieties that tolerate the

disease are Blanc Du Bois and Black Spanish, but unfortunately, they often don't produce the highest quality wines.

Botezatu is determined to change that. With a Ph.D. in wine science from Brock University in Canada and experience as a winemaker in Europe and Canada, she is helping the horticulture department engage in bona fide winemaking research. Two of her initial research projects are to study the pH and acidity levels of different varieties and identify the aroma compounds in the Black Spanish grape.

"While this grape tolerates Pierce's Disease, it has an unpleasant smell we

call the Black Spanish funk," Botezatu explained. She is exploring how the winemaking process can be adapted to eliminate it, which would allow growers of these grapes to make more palatable and profitable wines.

In addition to her research, Botezatu also leads a winemaking class inside the newly named Arthur & Gaye Platt Wine Fermentation Laboratory. In the class, students pair off in teams of three and make their own vintages—doing everything from pressing grapes to bottling and creating labels. "The students use different yeasts, nutrients and techniques," said Botezatu. "Then

TEXAS LEGATO WINERY.

Bill Bledsoe '71 is having the time of his life as owner of Texas Legato Winery in Lampasas, Texas. "If I'd known chemistry was going to be so much fun," he said, "I would have studied harder at Texas A&M."

Rollin Soles '78 owns ROCO Winery in Oregon's Willamette Valley. He attributes his industry success to his Texas A&M background. "Because my microbiology degree included classes in literature, political science, economics and language, it gave me a broad sense of the world," he said. "It prepared me for not only the detail orientation needed for winemaking, but also the cultural depth necessary to engage with the wide range of world winegrowers."

ROCO WINERY



Chris Brundrett '06, the owner of William Chris Vineyards in Hye, Texas, said a visit to a winemaking facility in college sparked his interest in wine. He promptly changed his major to horticulture. He now supports Texas A&M's enology program in many ways: by speaking to students, donating wines for classes and sponsoring the Black Spanish research project. "We try to hire as many Aggies as we can. It's a great feeling to watch someone come here as an intern, get hired here after graduation and then watch them get another great job," he said.

WILLIAM CHRIS VINEYARDS.



The Messina Hof legacy began more than 40 years ago when Merrill '75 and Paul Bonarrigo '76 planted a one-acre vineyard in Bryan, Texas. From those roots grew the original Aggie-owned Texas winery. Over the next three decades, as the Bonarrigos dedicated themselves to the winemaking trade, their wines grew in acclaim and their business expanded. In 2012, the winery was officially passed down to the couple's son and daughter-in-law, Karen and Paul Mitchell Bonarrigo, who now manage Messina Hof's four locations in Bryan, Fredericksburg, Grapevine and Richmond (opening later this year). Today, Messina Hof has developed the exclusive collection of Aggie Network wines and produces 220,000 gallons of wine per year, all while upholding its title as the Most Awarded Winery in Texas.

MESSINA HOF WINERY



we compare wines at the end of the semester." Professional winemakers are invited to give the students feedback.

THE PERFECT GLASS

Texas wines haven't traditionally been recognized for their quality, but the reputation is slowly improving. "We're competing against Europeans, who have been making wine for 5,000 years or more," said Lineberger. But through the college's efforts, from research to extension outreach, and the work of individual Aggies at vineyards around the state, Lineberger is confident Texas wine popularity will continue to grow.

"In 2005, several friends and I were discussing why Texas could pro-

duce so much good fruit, from citrus to strawberries, but it hadn't produced a really great wine," Leach said. "Our group of Aggies decided that if great wines were going to be made from Texas-grown grapes, we'd have to do it ourselves." Leach's Frio Canyon Vineyard has produced award-winning bottles in California's biggest tests. His focus is on improving the quality of wines produced in Texas and cultivating a distinctive terroir—the impact of a growing region's environmental factors on taste and other properties.

"We want to encourage the development of a uniquely special character in Texas wines," Lineberger added. "It's the idea that grapes grown in a

specific area have a sense of character that makes them better than similar grapes grown in other places."

Fortunately, the impact of Aggies in the wine industry extends beyond Texas. Former students are also making a mark in the enological hotbeds of California, Oregon and Washington. Rollin Soles '78, owner and winemaker at ROCO Winery in the Willamette Valley in Oregon, has been named one of the "20 Most Admired Winemakers in North America" by Vineyard & Winery Management. His wines have been honored on the Wine Spectator's "Top Wines of the World" list 13 times.

THOMPSON 31FIFTY WINERY



Michael Thompson '76 '82 received his undergraduate degree and MBA from Texas A&M, and he went on to found a successful electronics manufacturing company. He started in the wine business first as a collector and then moved on to conducting wine auctions to fund favorite charities. But he didn't stop there. "My research and involvement with wine eventually led to a desire to buy property, plant vineyards and make wine," he said. In 2013, he and his wife, Valerie, started Thompson 31Fifty in California's Russian River Valley, where they produce small batches of pinot noirs, chardonnays and zinfandels.

Jill and Kyle House '81 have been a "wine couple" since they first met. Their dream to plant a few grape vines eventually turned into three growing businesses, including a winery, vineyard and lavender farm. The vineyard, located in Hood River, Oregon, was originally an apple and pear farm that was in Jill's family for generations. "The decision to explore viticulture and winemaking was made due to our shared passion for wine and the fact that our land is ideal for the grape varietals we grow," Kyle said.

STAVE & STONE WINE ESTATES



Soles got his start in the wine industry as a microbiology major at Texas A&M. Upon hearing he was traveling to Europe for summer break, a professor set him up with a job at a Swiss winery, and Soles was hooked. "The beauty of the Swiss vineyards, the culture of sustainable grape farming and the spirit of winegrowers across Switzerland were key factors that got me into the wine and vine game," said Soles. "Aggies' sense of camaraderie, humor and manners seem to go over well in the wine industry."

Another West Coast Aggie, Mike Thompson '76 '82, owner of Thompson 31Fifty Wines in Healdsburg, California, is optimistic about what

Aggie smarts will add to the wine industry. "Texas A&M has huge potential to evolve as a major research and educational institution for the wine industry," he said. "We have changed the world of crop and food production and—it will take time—but I know we can do it with wine too." ©

TO SUPPORT TEXAS A&M'S VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY PROGRAMS, CONTACT:

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THE AGGIE WINE CLUB

To build Texas A&M's presence and reputation in the wine industry, there are several key funding opportunities for the viticulture and enology programs:

ENDOWED CHAIRS IN VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY (\$2 million each): Through two endowed chair positions, the horticulture department will increase faculty, which in turn enriches the academic environment and attracts the brightest students.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS (\$1.5 million): These well-funded fellowships will allow Texas A&M to recruit exceptional graduate students from across the United States and around the world.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (\$1 million): Funds will support updates to the viticulture and enology laboratories, including cutting-edge, high-quality equipment.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS (\$25,000+): Scholarships for viticulture and enology students are direct opportunities to have a powerful impact on Aggies and ease financial burdens.

VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY EXCELLENCE FUND (any amount toward a \$3 million goal): The Excellence Fund supports the education and training mission of the program through student scholarships, travel to meetings, legislative experiences and enhanced internship opportunities.



THE
Fortune
TELLER



Ray Rothrock '77 has used his proven penchant for predicting the future to achieve success in fields spanning nuclear energy, technology and venture capitalism. In the process, he's garnered a reputation for accurately conjuring up forward-thinking solutions to some of the world's most significant problems.



Each year, the World Economic Forum releases its assessment of the greatest global challenges—those that, among other criteria, could cause the most human suffering. In this year’s “Global Risks Report,” the items that top the “likeliest risks” category include extreme weather conditions, failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural disasters, data fraud or theft, and cyberattacks.

Three of the risks are climate-related and two are technology-related; few experts have their fingers on the pulse of both.

Ray Rothrock ’77 is an outlier.

Rothrock’s résumé spans the fields of all forms of clean energy, especially nuclear engineering, as well as technology, venture capitalism and business administration. His career changes have hinged on his uncanny knack for knowing what the future holds and how he can be part of it.

Like the World Economic Forum, Rothrock considers the broad areas of cybersecurity and climate change as the planet’s chief threats, particularly if those who can make a difference insist on conducting business as usual. “The cybersecurity issue must be solved quickly,” he said. “Climate change requires a more long-term solution, but both threats are real and must be solved to ensure a secure future.”

Rothrock proselytizes the use of nuclear energy to offset the planet’s reliance on fossil fuels. He also encourages rethinking cybersecurity with a resilience—rather than purely a prevention—perspective.

The buzz Rothrock has created in both the cybersecurity and nuclear energy fields was evident last July, when he found himself in Washington, D.C., sitting at a table with some of the country’s top minds. Members of the Nuclear Threat Initiative’s (NTI) Science and Technology Advisory Group represent some of the nation’s most prestigious academic institutions and key governmental bodies. Rothrock was the only corporate CEO present.

What he may have lacked in academic or governmental title, however, he more than made up for in expertise. During the course of his unpredictable career, he’s garnered a reputation for offering forward-thinking solutions to critical global problems. When groups like the NTI seek out nuclear and cybersecurity experts, Rothrock consistently makes the short list.

♣ ON A NUCLEAR MISSION

While acquiring merit badges is a routine exercise for a Boy Scout, for Rothrock, earning an atomic energy badge proved life-changing. Before a scientist from Oak Ridge National Laboratory had even completed his presentation to Rothrock’s troop, the 13-year-old was hooked.

In the summer of 1973, Rothrock and his father set out for a campus tour of Texas A&M University. By the time the visit was over, an associate engineering dean had not only convinced him to attend the university, but to also enroll that very day. The Rothrock men had the unfortunate task of finding a pay phone to let Ray’s mother know that her husband would be returning to Fort Worth alone.

Rothrock spent the next four years pursuing the nuclear engineering field with gusto. Along with engineering and honorary organizations, he was involved in the Photography Club, presided over Radio Club W5AC, and served on the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Directorate, receiving the MSC Distinguished Student Award his senior year.

But of all his campus achievements, the one with the most lasting impact on Texas A&M students was spurred



Rothrock's wife, Meredith, reveals two traits fundamental to her husband's success. "His ability to see the future is one thing," she said. "But it's his ability and willingness to pivot that defines him."



on by the absence of instrumental music options for non-cadets. With support from others in his calculus class, Rothrock led a successful campaign to create the Texas A&M Symphonic Band. He took full advantage of the new venture, playing oboe his sophomore year, clarinet his junior year and baritone saxophone his senior year.

From Texas A&M, Rothrock ventured to Boston, earning a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1978. But a short time into his first job as a nuclear safety engineer, he watched the impossible happen on live television: the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor meltdown. The ensuing public outcry and plummeting price of uranium signaled that the glory days of nuclear energy had ended.

"I was going to be a nuclear engineer the rest of my life," Rothrock said. "But when Three Mile Island happened, the country changed perspective. I knew my efforts to do something significant in the field had vanished."

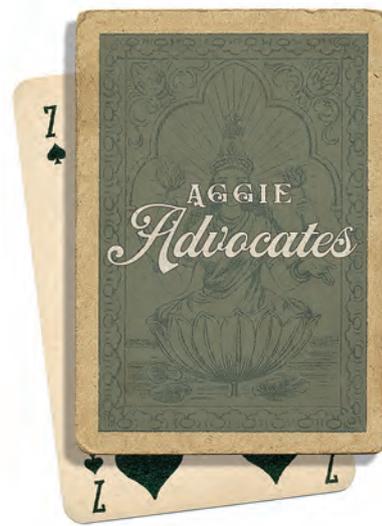
Rather than try to salvage his career, Rothrock sought out the next big thing. He'd read a magazine article about Silicon Valley and had purchased an Apple II computer. The personal computer revolution was unfolding. He packed his car and headed to California.

♥ A MAN OF ACTION

Rothrock's wife, Meredith, reveals two traits fundamental to her husband's success. "His ability to see the future is one thing," she said. "But it's his ability and willingness to pivot that defines him."

In Silicon Valley, Rothrock joined a series of startup technology companies. The first two failed. The third, though, achieved spectacular success: Sun Microsystems.

While Sun's triumph was due in great part to its product, that product could never have launched without the financial backing of investors. It would be the investors, Rothrock realized, who would ultimately shape this nascent technology industry. He wanted to be on that side of the table, so to speak.



As two of Texas A&M University's most stalwart supporters, Meredith and Ray Rothrock '77 have made a practice of giving today to ensure a bright future for the university tomorrow. While Ray graduated with a nuclear engineering degree, the couple's gifts have spanned far beyond the College of Engineering to support a vast array of facilities, programs, faculty and students.

In 2000, a \$500,000 gift by the Rothrocks to the Texas A&M Foun-

In 1986, Rothrock traded in the warm shores of California for the snowy winters of Boston. But rather than return to MIT, he journeyed across the Charles River to Harvard Business School. He was going to be a venture capitalist.

♣ A LUCRATIVE VENTURE

Like computer technology in the early 1980s, venture capitalism was a relatively new industry in the latter part of the decade. When he accepted a position with the Rockefeller family's venture capital fund, Venrock Associates, Rothrock became one of only three members of his 1988 Harvard MBA graduating class to land a job in the field.

Having poured so much of his heart and soul into startup ventures, Rothrock appreciated the benefits intrinsic to his new career from the outset. "As an investor, you can have your fingers in lots of pies, and only one of them has to succeed to make a difference," he explained.

Rothrock's experience in the technology field proved an asset in his new industry. Cybersecurity wasn't addressed much in the early days of the internet, but the precautions needed to keep information safe in an increasingly interconnected world had haunted Rothrock for years. With inadequate attention paid to this side of computer technology development, he predicted that security would eventually become a hot area for investment.

His calculation proved to be a lucrative one.

One of Rothrock's early investments for Venrock was in the computer firewall company Check Point. When the company's stock went public, it did so at 10 times the amount that Venrock had paid.

By the time Rothrock retired as managing partner of Venrock in 2013, the 53 companies he backed included eight that were successfully launched on the stock market and another three dozen that enjoyed fruitful outcomes. Rothrock's track record resulted in a two-time listing on the Forbes Midas List of top high-tech and science venture capital dealmakers.



dation (and matched by the Bright Chair Program) established a chair for the Department of Performance Studies' music program. Other gifts in support of the College of Liberal Arts include an unrestricted endowment for instruction and research programs, as well as a faculty research fellowship endowment for recently tenured associate professors, the Rothrock Fellows.

While serving as a Texas A&M Foundation trustee, Rothrock gave

the lead gift toward the Kay '02 and Jerry '72 Cox Foundation Excellence Award to support Texas A&M students from underrepresented groups. The Rothrocks also provided significant gifts to support the Memorial Student Center renovation and the construction of the Liberal Arts and Humanities Building and the Jon L. Hagler Center.

In 2016, Rothrock created the Ray Rothrock Lecture Series, which brings in prominent speakers from

the nuclear industry. The couple also supports the Memorial Student Center's Stark Northeast Tour, which enables students to visit top law and MBA programs in the Northeast.

Along with financial gifts, Rothrock unselfishly lends his time and expertise to bolster both the education of students and the institutions that support them. He serves as vice chairman of the board of directors of The University of Texas/Texas A&M

Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), and he has also served on The Association of Former Students' board.

Rothrock was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M in 2016—a title he also holds in the MIT Nuclear Science and Engineering Department and with Tau Beta Pi.

Like he's done with so many other world-changing phenomena, soothsayer Rothrock can foresee the promise of a planet powered by nuclear fusion. "Stay tuned," he said. "It's going to be a big one."

Meredith and Ray Rothrock's generous gifts have spanned a vast array of Texas A&M facilities, programs, faculty and students. Rothrock also lends his time and expertise by serving on numerous university boards and committees.

◆ CYBER RESILIENCE

Long consumed by the issue of cybersecurity, Rothrock agreed to shelve his short-lived retirement in 2014 to assume the CEO role at RedSeal, which develops cyber risk modeling platforms. With a detailed model of its network in hand, an organization is in a far better position to bounce back after a cyberattack.

"You can't put out every fire," Rothrock explained. "You must be resilient in order to effectively deal with it. That's why buildings are equipped with sprinkler systems.

"The same approach should be taken with cybersecurity," he continued. "Yes, you should try to keep cyberattacks from happening. But you should also optimize your systems so that you can continue if your network is attacked. In this day and age, we can no longer rely on a whack-a-mole approach to cybersecurity strategy."

It's a gospel Rothrock preaches in his 2018 book, "Digital Resilience: Is Your Company Ready for the Next Cyber Threat?"—a publication that has increased his visibility as an in-demand public speaker and subject matter expert.

♥ A PROMISING FUTURE

On climate change, Rothrock's stance as a staunch supporter of nuclear alternatives to fossil fuels has likewise put him in the limelight. In 2012, he served as co-executive producer of the film "Pandora's Promise," which promotes the safe, clean potential of nuclear energy as a power supply of zero-carbon electricity and heat.

Along with his Nuclear Threat Initiative involvement, Rothrock works with legislators, the U.S. Nuclear Regu-

latory Commission, the Department of Energy and other Washington, D.C., individuals and groups to encourage a renewed look at nuclear energy power sources. He's particularly excited about the potential of creating energy through nuclear fusion, as opposed to traditional nuclear fission.

With nuclear fission—the type of reaction in nuclear power plants—atoms are split in two or more parts to achieve energy. Fusion uses the opposite approach: Energy is created when two light atoms are fused together into a heavier atom.

With the latter method, science shows that radioactivity is mostly avoided, and a nuclear power plant meltdown is impossible. Scientists emphasize that the short-lived waste produced by fusion would alleviate the waste-disposal issue associated with fission. And they point out that deuterium—one of the chief fuels required for fusion—is abundant in nature, thus available at a fraction of the price of fossil fuels.

While Rothrock sees value in alternative energy sources like wind and solar, he is concerned by the amount of planetary surface area these sources require. Nuclear energy is very dense, requiring far less surface area to produce. "The notion of generating abundant power density in a small space could change the world," he said. It's an idea that has intrigued scientists, engineers and even filmmakers for decades: Think of the fusion reactor powering the "Back to the Future" DeLorean.

Proof of Rothrock's conviction is in the time and energy he has spent serving on the board and raising funds for TAE Technologies (formerly Tri Alpha Energy), which has its sights set on demonstrating fusion-reactor technology within the next five years and commercialization shortly thereafter.

Like he's done with so many other world-changing phenomena, soothsayer Rothrock can foresee the promise of a planet powered by nuclear fusion.

"Stay tuned," he said. "It's going to be a big one." ©

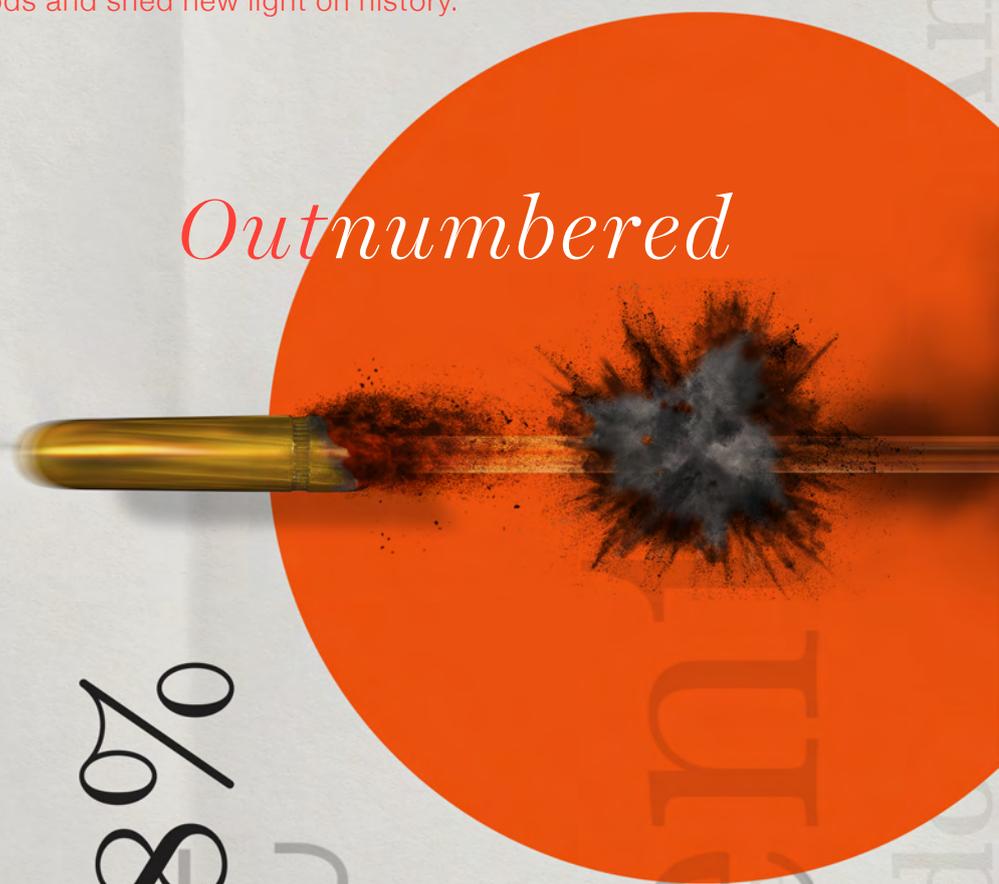
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arsenic, antimony and copper were each determined using longer-lived isotopes; therefore, a rotisserie irradiation of two hours was employed. Neutron capture reactions were responsible for production of indicator isotopes ^{76}As ($t_{1/2} = 26.4$ h, $E_{\gamma} = 559$ keV), ^{122}Sb ($t_{1/2} = 2.70$ d, $E_{\gamma} = 564$ keV) and ^{64}Cu ($t_{1/2} = 12.7$ h, $E_{\gamma} = 511$ keV).

Dr. Clifford Spiegelman uses statistics to challenge forensic methods and shed new light on history.

✕ by Bailey Payne '19

Outnumbered



9.8%

merit
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of freedom
antimony, p

bullet

Dallas PD photograph made 11/23/63
see Harvey Oswald @ Aleck J. Midell.
MM 10/19/39 in New Orleans, La.



House Select Committee on Assassinations, U.S. Cong. House (regarding assassination bullet fragment compositions and also to the of the NRC in their report "Weighing Bullet Lead Evidence" (2

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17

testified

What are your hobbies? "Swimming, ranching and working with all kinds of animals, from buzzards to domestic animals."

Your office is decked out in Minion decorations. What do you like about Minions? "The Minions represent naivety and manage to stumble their way to success."

What actor would you choose to play you in a movie? "Basil Rathbone from 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' (1939), based on the Sherlock Holmes novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

If you could speak to any scientific figure(s), dead or alive, who would they be? "Galileo Galilei, to understand how such a courageous person established much of the scientific method in the face of persecution, and Marie Curie, to talk about how she approached science."

What is the best advice you have for an undergraduate student? "Learn as much as you can about everything, including the sciences and humanities. The more you understand, the more useful you will be. Lose any sense of entitlement you might have, and plan to work your way to the top."



• The world was stunned on Nov. 22, 1963, after learning that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by rifle fire in Dallas, Texas. Crime scene evidence and the government's 888-page Warren Commission forensic findings concluded that assassin Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, firing three shots from an Italian-made Mannlicher-Carcano military rifle and killing the president.

Forensic ballistic studies examine microscopic similarities between “bunter marks”—the bullet manufacturer’s name and caliber imprinted on each cartridge—to demonstrate an association between ammunition evidence found at a crime scene with that seized from the suspect. Spiegelman has challenged the validity of using bunter marks as evidence in criminal trials.



Imagine that you are part of a jury overseeing a murder trial, and the defendant swears he is innocent. The prosecutor calls to the witness stand a forensics expert with more than 30 years of experience in crime laboratories running tests for cases like this one.

The expert brings the jury’s attention to bullet casings found at the crime scene, specifically the tiny marks engraved on the back of each casing. He explains that these are “bunter marks,” usually impressed on each bullet during the manufacturer’s production.

The expert then reveals that, after rigorous testing, the bunter marks on the casings at the crime scene match almost exactly to marks from a box of cartridges found in the defendant’s home. Murmurs spread throughout the courtroom. When pressed about his confidence in the findings, the expert claims he can match the two bullets’ marks with an error rate of less

than 1%. Jury members exchange looks. Certainly, this can’t bode well for the defendant.

But despite what the prosecutor would have you believe, Dr. Clifford Spiegelman says this kind of evidence is statistically meaningless. “The same bunter marks can appear on hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of bullets,” he said. Because the same bunter tools are customarily used for large quantities of bullets, matching bunter marks cannot be statistically relied upon to track bullets back to the same box. “Trial evidence will focus on whether or not they can tell it’s the same bunter mark on two different

bullets, but statistically, it doesn’t matter if they can.”

Pro Bono Statistician

A distinguished professor of statistics in the Texas A&M University College of Science, Spiegelman has used statistics to address issues in unexpected fields for more than 40 years. He co-wrote a leading textbook in transportation statistics, was named the official statistician of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, and helped found the interdisciplinary field of chemometrics, which uses statistical methods to better understand chemical data.

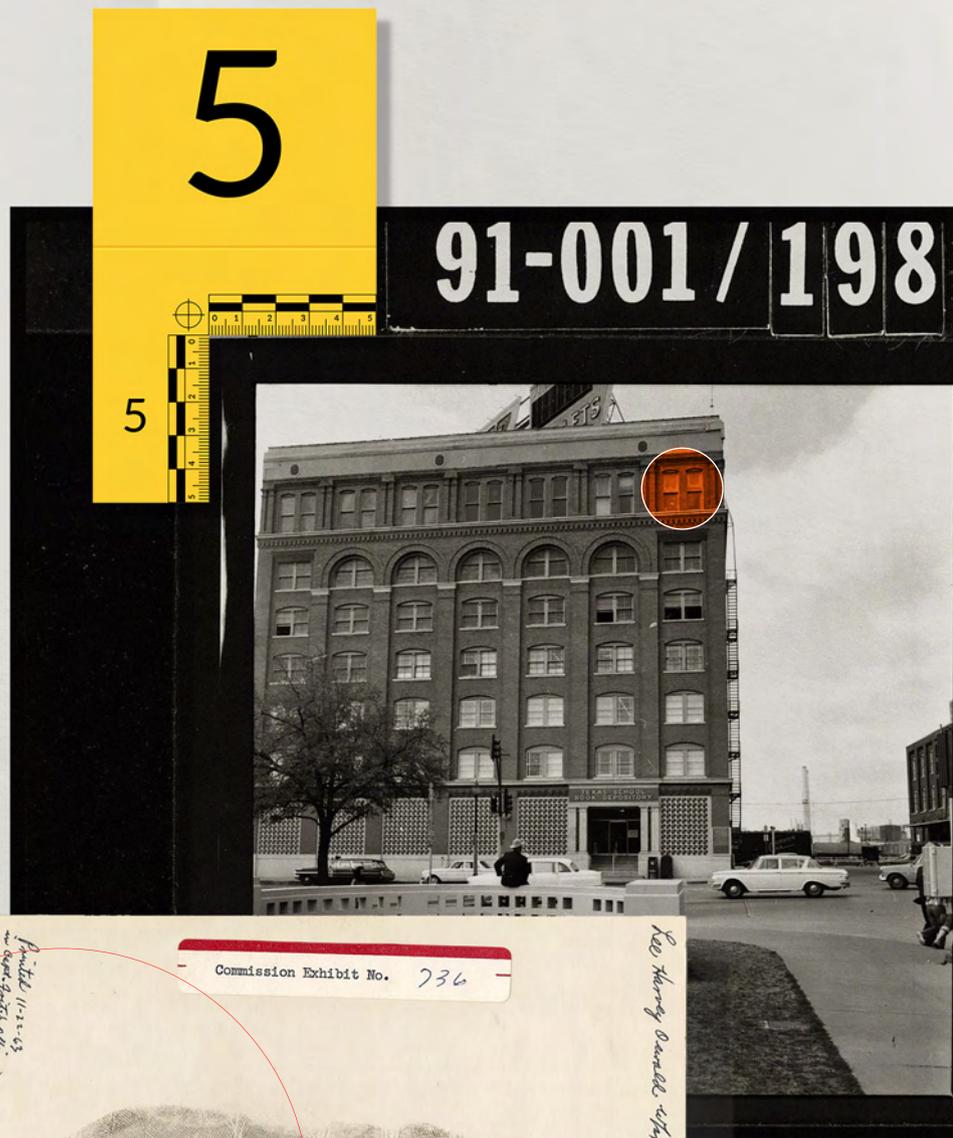
Spiegelman's most publicized work, however, is in forensic science. He is a key statistical adviser to the City of Houston's crime laboratory. Working with the Innocence Project, a free non-profit legal organization for wrongly convicted people, he has testified pro bono on cases in which shaky forensic methods, like bunter mark analysis, were being used against innocent defendants.

"People like flashy science," Spiegelman said. "But doing simple science well is very hard." In the bunter mark example, for instance, what mattered to the case was not that the bullets had the same bunter mark, but whether that information was statistically meaningful in proving or disproving the defendant's innocence.

Many similarly flawed forensic methods are still used and treated as iron-clad evidence in criminal courts, motivating Spiegelman to research different methods' validity. In 2007, his expertise was used to help evaluate the effectiveness of comparative bullet lead analysis, a forensic method first used in the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. He and five other researchers assessed the method the best way they knew how: by investigating its use following the JFK assassination itself.

Fragmented Findings

After the Kennedy assassination, it was generally agreed that, given the timeframe and the bolt action rifle assassin Lee Harvey Oswald used, it would have been physically impossible for him to fire more than three times (assuming he was actually aiming before he fired). However, bullet



Eyewitness reports were conflicting, but the Warren Commission concluded that three shots were fired at the president. The second and third shots struck the president, while the third round killed him. It quickly became clear that the shots originated from a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository (top), located within close range of the passing presidential motorcade.

Lee Harvey Oswald was stationed among book cartons stacked in the southeastern corner of the Book Depository at the time of the shooting. The Dallas police and the FBI noted 20 identifiable fingerprints and eight palm prints on cartons closest to the southeastern corner window. A rifle belonging to Oswald along with three 6.5x52mm brass shell casings were found on the floor with one unfired cartridge still in the weapon.

lead found at the crime scene did not definitively prove the number of shots fired. If there was evidence of a fourth or even a fifth bullet, it would scientifically disprove the theory that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

A chemist from the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations claimed that each bullet was chemically unique. He used a then-new technique now called "comparative bullet lead analysis" to distinguish the chemical makeup of each fragment. From this, the chemists claimed that the lead fragments came from just two bullets. Stuart Wexler, a New Jersey high school social studies teacher and colleague of Spiegelman's, knew that Spiegelman was giving talks about the flawed testimony and recruited him to further investigate.

Spiegelman collaborated with another statistician, two chemists, a metallurgist and Wexler to analyze 30 bullets that were produced from the same manufacturing lots believed to have made the bullets used in the assassination. Scientists at the Texas A&M Elemental Analysis Lab used neutron activation analysis, a process of irradiating the bullets, to measure their chemical composition. Spiegelman and the statisticians then compared the data from each bullet's measurements against one another.

Their results were conclusive. Of the 30 bullets analyzed, 29 chemically matched another in the same batch, effectively disproving the theory that each bullet carried a unique chemical fingerprint. The 30th bullet was chemically indistinguishable from assassination fragments. By the team's findings,

theoretically there could have been as many as five bullets contributing to the assassination evidence. The House Select Committee was misled by the chemist's testimony. While the team's study did not prove the presence of a second shooter, it did invalidate a significant piece of evidence supporting the theory that Oswald acted alone.

Bringing Belated Justice

The bullet lead analysis study received local, national and international publicity for its relation to Kennedy's assassination (and the myriad conspiracy theories around it). Spiegelman himself made more than a dozen appearances on media outlets such as Fox News, CNN and NBC Nightly News. Despite the rotating press coverage around that particular study, Spiegelman's interests still reside in using statistics to achieve justice for everyday citizens.

Growing up in suburban Long Island, New York, during the civil rights movement, Spiegelman saw the effects of racial injustice firsthand. Decades later, he is helping push for a bipartisan measure that could bring closure, if not justice, to families affected by hate crimes in the 1960s.

"The people who committed hate crimes were often not upstanding citizens outside of those crimes," Spiegelman said. Many perpetrators of racial violence, for example, also committed other petty crimes. "But when they were caught for these other crimes, their fingerprints were never entered into a database."

Spiegelman is working with Wexler and U.S. legislators on potential bi-

partisan legislation that would enter existing forensic evidence collected from the civil rights era into forensic databases, setting a "trap" for former hate criminals still living across the country. Such a database could bring those criminals to account; barring that, it could help close decades-long cold cases.

Lies and Statistics

At a time in which the average American is bombarded with conflicting information daily, Spiegelman has one simple piece of advice when it comes to published statistics. "Be skeptical," he said. "The numbers you are being fed aren't always wrong, but they're often not based on good science." He pointed to a 2005 study by Dr. John P.A. Ioannidis that claimed most published research findings were often significantly influenced by bias, flawed methodology and financial interests.

In spite of Spiegelman's caution with regard to published data, his own work proves there is plenty of truth to be found in statistics. His attention to detail has helped to free innocent people, reevaluate history and develop sharper analytical tools. Spiegelman lives his life by the numbers, and the results speak for themselves. ©

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT DR. SPIEGELMAN'S WORK AND THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, CONTACT:

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RLUNSFORD@TXAMFOUNDATION.COM



Howdy

Luke Benignus '22

What inspired you to pursue a career in construction?

During my sophomore year of high school, my brother started a construction business because he liked being hands-on and working for himself. I helped him during the summers. He was 25 and I was 16 at the time, and we initially worked 70 to 80 hours per week to establish ourselves. I realized that I wanted to work in construction because I love the process of bringing a project to life.

What surprises you most about college life?

Hands-down, it is seeing how 60,000 students can all live here independently and collaborate together. It's not chaotic or anything! That took me by surprise coming from a small town. My graduating high school class was only 160 kids!

Have you met your scholarship donor, Mr. Allan Marburger '60?

Yes, I met him at a scholarship banquet. Honestly, Mr. Marburger could easily fit right into my hometown, which makes sense, because he's from Paige, which is just down the road. I know his scholarships help many students in the surrounding area. He is the most welcoming person ever! His scholarship helps me focus on my studies instead of worry about where I would get the money to pay for food, gas and tuition. I can work harder in school because he removed that stress for me.

How did your coin collecting interest begin?

My grandpa had a little shaving cream box from the 1940s that was full of coins. That got me in-

More Than Old Change



Luke showed off two specific pieces from his coin collection: a "Draped Bust" minted in 1806 (top) and a "Morgan dollar" minted in 1879 (bottom). The 1806 "Draped Bust" quarter is the oldest coin in Luke's collection. It bears the second oldest design for a U.S. quarter, minted from 1796 to 1807. The quarter depicts Lady Liberty, with emphasis on her curly locks of hair, hence its nickname. Named after its designer, George T. Morgan, the Morgan silver dollar also depicts Lady Liberty on its obverse side and an eagle on its reverse. Morgan dollars were first minted from 1878 to 1904, and again in 1921. "My grandpa collected quite a few of these, but this one was in the best condition," Luke said. Luke had both coins graded and sealed by the Professional Coin Grading Service, a grading, authentication and encapsulation service for collectible coins.

terested in researching each one to learn its value and where it was made and minted. I don't have it anymore, but my favorite piece was a dollar bill called a 'short snorter' that World War II American flight crews would sign for good luck before a flight. I looked up the signatures online and studied each pilot's background. Sadly, I had to sell it, but it was cool to learn about its story.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation?

My long-term plan is to work for a general contracting company for several years before partnering with my brother to build residential custom homes. I want to actually draw blueprints; we've built three houses that I've drawn blueprints for so far. You don't get to do that as much in the commercial industry because the architects do it for you, but that's the kind of work I love. ©

An Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) scholarship provides an annual stipend for four years to a deserving student. You can create an EOA with a \$25,000 endowed gift, payable over five years, through a gift of cash, securities or real estate, or through a planned gift.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

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 MULLMANN@TXAMFOUNDATION.COM

Best piece of advice you've received:
"There's good in every evil." Every bad thing that has happened in my life has always had some good come out of it.

Worst construction pet peeve:

When I see a tile sticking up just enough so that if you tried to slide something over it, it would catch. Or really anything in a house that's not straight. Little details like that!

Passionate about coin collecting and bringing buildings to life, Luke Benignus '22 is drawing up plans for his construction career with the help of an Endowed Opportunity Award scholarship.

MAJOR: CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE

HOMETOWN: GIDDINGS, TEXAS

SCHOLARSHIP: ALLAN A. MARBURGER
ENDOWED OPPORTUNITY AWARD

Favorite Aggie tradition:

Silver Taps. When I lost my grandpa a few years ago, hundreds of people paid their respects at his funeral. So, I understand how much it means to a family when thousands of students show up to honor their child's memory.

Most important item on a BBQ plate:

Pulled pork. It's just one of those things that is hard to master.

Favorite part of the day:

Waking up and making my bed. I know I'll have something nice to come home to even if it's a bad day!



timecapsule



Almost Home

Located between College Station and Waco, the Aggie Barn has served as the gateway to Aggieland for those driving south on Highway 6 since its first maroon and white makeover in 1980.

BY MORGAN KNOBLOCH '20

Just off Highway 6 in Reagan, Texas, the famous Aggie Barn tells southbound Aggies they are less than an hour from Texas A&M University. Though not an official historical landmark, the barn has become a beloved Aggie icon since donning its first maroon and white façade in 1980.

Throughout college, Joe Swinnea '85 could easily describe the location of his hometown to others by referencing this Aggie landmark. "Besides Highway 6, there is really nothing else in Reagan," said Joe, who grew up in the small community and now maintains the barn. "The barn has kept our little town on the map."

In 2006, however, plans for construction along Highway 6 threatened to raze the Aggie Barn. Knowing how much the barn meant to her husband, Tressa Swinnea urged Joe to save it. Three weeks before it was scheduled to be demolished, Joe finalized his purchase of the barn and moved it half a mile

south to his own property. "Without Tressa, there would no longer be an Aggie Barn," Joe said. "I didn't think I had the time to relocate it and put it back together all those years ago, but thankfully she saw something I couldn't."

The Swinneas were not the first couple to relocate the barn. Long before reaching its unofficial landmark status, the Aggie Barn was originally the First State Bank building in downtown Reagan. In the late 1940s, Thagard Kirkpatrick '24 noticed the building was no longer in use. Realizing its potential, he and his wife, Mary, purchased the old bank and relocated it to their property,



where he converted the structure into a barn with a livestock corral under one wing and a storage room under the other.

Years later, a windstorm swept away the barn's roof. When Thagard made repairs, he decided to blanket the barn in maroon and white and paint "Gig 'em Aggies!" on its north end as a testament to his Texas A&M pride. In the 1980s, members of the Corps of Cadets added "Whoop" and different class years to the side of the barn that faces Highway 6.

"My earliest memory of the barn is helping Thagard hang the original Ol' Sarge sign in the north gable," Joe said. "He and Mary

were pillars in the town of Reagan, and he was the best Aggie I ever knew. It's an honor to carry on the tradition of the barn with my own family now."

In addition to lawn care, Joe, Tressa and their children see to the barn's necessary repairs. "We try to give the barn a fresh coat of paint every four to five years," Joe said. "Now that our children are out of school and working, however, I update class years and do other touch-ups and repairs whenever I have time or see the need. Every now and then, fellow Aggies will stop to help if they see us working on the barn."

Though the barn is on private property,

passersby can obtain permission to enter for a family photo with the Aggie landmark simply by contacting Joe and Tressa via text or email.

Notable visitors, including Reveille VIII and Reveille IX, have posed for photos at the barn. While still under the Kirkpatricks' care, Coach Jackie Sherrill and the Texas A&M football team stopped by on their way to play Southern Methodist University in 1980, giving the couple a hat and jersey to mark the occasion.

While the barn stores hay at times, it is also used as a venue for retreats, Aggie Ring Day celebrations and graduation par-

ties. "It has been exciting to see the barn's recognition grow over the years," Joe concluded. "The Aggie Barn is a special landmark that means you are almost home if you're an Aggie." ©

To learn more about the Aggie Barn's history, or to contact Joe and Tressa, please visit aggiebarn.com.

The first cohort of Aggie ACHIEVE students includes, from left to right, Matthew Carrizal '23, Courtney Osburn '23, Alexis Villarreal '23, Abby Tassin '23 and Miguel Gonzalez '23.

Achieving Inclusion

Texas A&M's Aggie ACHIEVE program creates a groundbreaking academic opportunity for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

BY DORIAN MARTIN '06

Matthew Carrizal '23 has enjoyed a number of firsts—attending Fish Camp, living independently and learning in a college setting—that other Texas A&M University freshmen have also experienced. However, the Houston native is blazing a trail as one of the first students in Aggie ACHIEVE (Academic Courses in Higher Inclusive Education and Vocational Experiences), an inclusive and immersive four-year residential educational

opportunity for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Coordinated through the College of Education and Human Development's Department of Educational Psychology, this program is one of a growing number of similar higher education efforts nationally—and the first of its kind in Texas. The first Aggie cohort of five students has Down syndrome, autism or cerebral palsy.



Aggie ACHIEVE has enjoyed initial private and corporate financial support through gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation. However, it is experiencing a groundswell of interest from prospective students, which will require additional funding to meet the growing demand.

Opening Doors

Aggie ACHIEVE's foundation was created by the Higher Education Opportunity Act, passed in 2008 to create higher education opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "The employment rate for individuals with cognitive impairments is abysmal," said Dr. Carly Gilson, faculty director of Aggie ACHIEVE and assistant professor of special education, who spearheaded the program. "Programs like Aggie ACHIEVE help improve life for adults with disabilities by opening doors to more social, learning and employment opportunities."

Aggie ACHIEVE's rapid two-year creation is due to the expertise and dedication of Gilson, Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development Director Dr. Dan Zhang, and a steering committee composed of many statewide advocates for special needs individuals, including former Texas Representative Vilma Luna. "The willingness of Texas A&M to launch this program will show other universities that this is feasible," said Luna, whose son, Miguel Gonzalez '23, is enrolled in the program.

An Inclusive Campus Life

Carrizal and his Aggie ACHIEVE cohort have embraced all opportunities offered. "At Fish Camp, they were dancing, laughing and learning about being an Aggie," said Meredith Novy '20, a human resources management major who was a co-chair for the group's Fish Camp, Camp Zuber. "Our counselors were drawn to them and helped with any tribulation, no matter how small."

The five students, who live on campus with undergraduates who serve as residen-

tial mentors, appreciate the opportunity to gain independence. "It finally proves that I can take care of myself, although I do have other people who help me," said Carrizal, who has learned to do his own laundry, wash his dishes and clean the bathroom.

The students also attend seminars on independent living, career awareness and self-determination, and are encouraged to join Texas A&M organizations. They are also paired with ACHIEVE Mates, a group of undergraduates who provide support navigating college and serve in a variety of academic, wellness and social roles.

Hitting the Books

The cohort can be found in classrooms across campus, participating in approximately five hours of inclusive coursework each semester. "The instructors have been very welcoming, and they've requested Aggie ACHIEVE students in their classes," said Aggie ACHIEVE Program Director Dr. Olivia Hester.

Interested faculty members worked with Gilson and Hester to determine ideal courses and adapt syllabi to meet students' learning styles. "The biggest change I made is giving greater flexibility in how these students demonstrate their learning," said Instructional Assistant Professor Rayna Dexter, who had two Aggie ACHIEVE students enrolled in her fall semester theater history course. "These students can choose the best method for them to demonstrate what they've learned."

During the spring 2020 semester, the students will take part in on-campus internships. When they become juniors, they will focus more on career development and specialization, including off-campus internships in areas of interest, such as Carrizal's dream of writing and directing films.

This program is creating a new level of understanding and inclusion among Texas A&M's faculty and students. "Aggie ACHIEVE is important to Texas A&M as it continues to make higher education avail-

able to all," said Abe van Helmond '20, a chemistry major who was a co-chair for the group's Fish Camp. "This program makes people more aware of students with intellectual and learning disabilities, who have the same aspirations as every other student." ©

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT AGGIE ACHIEVE, CONTACT:

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Investing in Inclusion

Texas A&M's groundbreaking Aggie ACHIEVE program is a major investment. The annual cost for each participant exceeds \$30,000, which includes university and program support fees, housing and meal plans, and university access fees.

Fortunately, the program has received generous support from individual and corporate donors. For example, Aggie ACHIEVE received a \$100,000 grant from the H-E-B Tournament of Champions, a series of events and volunteer projects with H-E-B partners, vendors and suppliers that has raised more than \$118 million to support more than 600 organizations since 1986.

The Aggie ACHIEVE staff has identified several funding priorities to sustain and grow this program, including:

- Endowing scholarships to offset program costs for current Aggie ACHIEVE students and allowing more students to participate in this program.
- Establishing an Aggie ACHIEVE Excellence Fund to support programmatic needs, student experiences and stipends for resident mentors who live with the Aggie ACHIEVE students.
- Creating an endowed chair to support faculty research, teaching and outreach in the field of special needs education.
- Funding an endowed directorship to support the director in his or her role as the program's lead strategist and visionary.
- Creating graduate assistantships to increase the number of graduate students supporting the students, faculty and staff of Aggie ACHIEVE.

In Their Names

During the *Lead by Example* campaign, countless individuals chose to honor their loved ones through memorial or honorary gifts.

There's a reason it's called the Aggie Family. Since its origin, Texas A&M University has brought together thousands of people, fostering countless lifelong connections. It's no surprise, therefore, that the campus traditions that hold precedence above all others are the ones in which Aggies honor the memory of other Aggies. Every year, thousands at Muster answer "Here" for those who cannot. When they are called to Silver Taps, silent masses of students gather at Academic Plaza to remember their fellow Aggies as they would hope to be remembered.

In this article, we're sharing six stories of donors who established gifts to Texas A&M in honor of loved ones—both living and deceased—during the *Lead by Example* campaign. Because such gifts can be individually tailored, many choose to give to areas in accordance with their loved ones' own passions and interests. From a daughter's unique anniversary present to a touching tribute for a fallen president, each

story shows how Aggies are creating meaningful and reflective gifts.

Your honorary or memorial gift to the Texas A&M Foundation can be tailored to fit the interests and values of your loved one, making it a true extension of that person's life. As you read these stories, consider how your own gift could create a living legacy for someone who has made an undeniable difference in your life.

It Runs in the Family

After graduation, Taylor Butler '19 endowed a scholarship in honor of her parents' 25th wedding anniversary to recognize their influence on her character and career.

The old saying, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," can easily be applied to the Butler family. Attributing her interest in engineering to her parents, who are both Texas A&M University petroleum engineering graduates, Taylor Butler '19 followed their example, graduating nearly 33 years later with her own petroleum engineering degree.

As an undergrad, Taylor received several scholarships funded by former students and knew she wanted to continue cultivating an atmosphere of support around engineering students. "In a tight-knit department like petroleum engineering, it's nice for current students to know they have support from former students," she said. "I could go on for days about the amazing experiences and memories that Texas A&M, and particularly the petroleum engineering department, gave me."

To the surprise of her parents, Leasa '86 and Kurt Butler '86, Taylor endowed a petroleum engineering scholarship in their names in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary less than a year after graduating. "Taylor has always been generous, but to establish such a wonderful gift so soon after graduation is incredible," Leasa said. "We couldn't be prouder of her. It is



Taylor Butler '19 (center) endowed a petroleum engineering scholarship to recognize her parents, Leasa '86 and Kurt Butler '86.

Glynna '80 and Bob Leiper (right) created three endowed scholarships honoring their two children, Chad '17 and Kelsey '12, and Bob's mother.



such an honor to be the namesakes of her gift.”

Taylor is now employed in Houston with Southwestern Energy as a rotational engineer and is grateful for the experiences and knowledge she gained from Texas A&M. More than anything, however, she is grateful for her parents' example and is proud to be part of their legacy.

“I owe everything I am to my parents,” she added. “They have given me continuous support and advice, and they were monumentally influential in shaping me into who I am today.”

Fishing for Adventure

Combining her love for her sister and the sea, Linda Christine and her husband, Charles '96, created the Terry Lynn Rich Memorial Scholarship for students studying marine biology.

In the wake of her youngest sister's passing, Linda Christine knew she and her husband, Charles '96, wanted to honor her life. Remembering Terry's fearless spirit and love for the ocean, Linda and Charles, a graduate of Texas A&M University at Galveston, established the Terry Lynn Rich Memorial Scholarship for marine biology students at Texas A&M Galveston.

“Terry was the youngest of four girls and the first of her sisters to pass away,” Charles said. “We felt this scholarship would create a lasting legacy for her by supporting students as they pursue their own adventures.”

As children, Linda's grandfather would take all four of his granddaughters fishing, which she remembers as the start of their love for the water. “Terry always loved being near the water,” Linda said. “She was often sick with asthma as a child, but she never let that keep her from adventure. As a mother, she took her children camping and taught them to explore the world around them. She was fearless, and I was always in awe of her.”

Set up with matching funds from Sherwin Williams, where Charles worked as a chemist until retiring in October 2019, the Christine's scholarship will allow future students to follow in Terry's footsteps as they pursue their own passions. “We understand the financial burdens that college can bring,” Charles said. “We hope this scholarship helps students as they learn and grow, which is something we know Terry would have wanted.”

Honoring Traditions

Glynna '80 and Bob Leiper are using gifts for the Singing Cadets, Mays Business School, and the College of Education and Human Development as a way to honor their loved ones.

Glynna '80 and Bob Leiper are no strangers to creating honorary gifts as a way of showing their love for those they care about. In fact, the couple has created three endowed scholarships honoring their two children and Bob's mother, Frances Wright Leiper.

The couple's son, Chad '17, was a member of the Singing Cadets while pursuing degrees in biomedical science and business. “The life lessons he gained through the Singing Cadets changed his life and ours,” Glynna said. To recognize Chad's participation in the university's men's chorus, his parents created a scholarship for members of the Singing Cadets in his name.



Linda Christine (right) and her husband, Charles '96, created a marine biology scholarship named in memory of Linda's sister, Terry (left), that honors her love for the sea.

Through two memorial gifts, the Houston Aggie Moms' Club honored the lives and legacies of First Lady Barbara Bush and President George H.W. Bush.



“Knowing that my parents came to love the organization as much as I do validates their commitment to me and Texas A&M,” Chad added.

To recognize their daughter, Kelsey '12, a business administration graduate, the couple created a scholarship for first-generation students pursuing a degree in Mays Business School. They believe her experience in the school established a strong foundation for her education and future career.

Finally, the Leipers honored Bob's mother, a lifelong elementary teacher, through a scholarship designated for Aggies in the College of Education and Human Development who are pursuing a Pre-K through sixth grade teaching certification. “It is the perfect way to honor my grandmother's legacy of providing quality education to others,” Kelsey said.

In addition to their honorary gifts, the Leipers have also donated to MSC OPAS to help students expand

their worldview through the arts. “We wanted to pay it forward as much as we could to help others,” Glynn added. “This way, we will continue having a positive impact even after we are gone.”

Remembering the Bushes

The Houston Aggie Moms' Club honors the lives and legacies of First Lady Barbara Bush and President George H.W. Bush with two endowed gifts.

Since 1927, the dedicated mothers in the Houston Aggie Moms' Club have established more than 25 endowed scholarships at Texas A&M University. In honor of the historic legacies left by the late First Lady and President, the club created \$25,000 endowed scholarships in both the College of Education and Human Development and The Bush School of Government and Public Service to help students reach their full potential.

“For many years, President and Mrs. Bush generously donated items featured at our annual fundraiser, which we greatly appreciated,” said Melissa Johnson, the club's 2018–2019 president. “Their lives exemplify the core values of Texas A&M University, so we were inspired to create these scholarships to honor them as dedicated public servants, beloved for their commitment to family, volunteerism, literacy and public service.”

The Barbara Bush Spirit of Teaching/Houston Aggie Moms' Club Endowed Scholarship will support undergraduate education majors during a semester of their yearlong student teaching requirement in the Houston area. “We hope these scholarships will lessen financial burdens and allow students to focus on their studies, broaden their student-teaching experience and maximize their community involvement,” Johnson said. “Mrs. Bush was an amazing advocate of the power of literacy to change lives.”

After President Bush passed away in November 2018, the club created a fellowship in his name for graduate students in the Bush School who exhibit excellence in leadership, public service and public volunteerism. “Mrs. Bush and President Bush were benevolent individuals who always looked to serve their communities,” Johnson added. “We hope both gifts continue to keep the Bushes alive in the hearts of Aggies and honor them as model citizens of not just Houston, but also our state and nation.”



Dr. Gary Ozier '78 (center), a physician in Wichita Falls, Texas, created a gift in honor of his parents to support future generations of Texas A&M medical students.

A Pioneer Pays Back

Dr. Gary Ozier '78, a member of the College of Medicine's charter class, established a gift in honor of his parents to support the next generation of doctors.

Dr. Gary Ozier's family history certainly suggested a path in medicine. Growing up watching his father, Dr. Billy Ozier '42, enjoy a fulfilling career practicing medicine inspired his own interest in the field. Now, decades later, Gary is a family physician in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Andrea, and his children, Catherine '15, Jennifer '17, Sam '21 and Bill '24. Today, he has established a \$25,000 gift to support future Texas A&M University medical students.

"As a member of the College of Medicine's charter class, I feel a duty to help pave the way for future doctors," said Gary, a Class of 1978 graduate. "I see giving back as an opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations and the future of medicine."

Hoping to show gratitude for the lessons Texas A&M provided him in and out of the classroom, Gary created the Dr. Billy B. Ozier '42 and Margie Ozier/Rapport Society Endowed Scholarship. Named in honor of Gary's parents, the gift will support Aggie medical students from Wichita County in Texas.

"More than a plaque or any other dedication, my parents would have valued this living legacy," Gary added. "My family's culture and Texas A&M's culture both instilled in me the im-

portance of selfless service to others. As a doctor, I am thankful for the chance to embody that spirit of service every day, and I hope this scholarship will provide the same opportunity to many more Aggies."

A Legacy of Friendship

In honor of their longtime friendship, Ann Berger surprised the late Col. David Cravey '49 with a General Rudder Corps Scholarship named for him and his late wife, Nelda.

Since meeting the late Col. David Cravey '49 and his late wife, Nelda, more than 35 years ago, Ann Berger and her late husband, Robert '60, became lasting friends with the couple. "When we traveled for Texas A&M University activities, we always coordinated our plans with Dave and Nelda and a few other couples," Ann said.

To commemorate their friendship, Ann created a General Rudder

Corps Scholarship for a Fightin' Texas Aggie Band member in Dave and Nelda's honor. She surprised Dave before his passing in January 2020 by presenting him with a plaque announcing the scholarship before the Texas A&M vs. Auburn football game last September.

"This came as a tremendous surprise for me, but it is typically fitting for the Bergers," Dave said at the time. "They have always been so generous and gracious, especially in their love for Texas A&M. It was a day I will always remember."

Inspired by Dave and Nelda's love for each other and their generosity to others, Ann hopes this scholarship will continue their legacy for years to come. "I can honestly say that Nelda and Dave were the most loving and unselfish couple I ever met, aside from my own parents," she said. "I couldn't imagine a better way to honor our friendship than with this scholarship." ©

Ann Berger created a General Rudder Corps Scholarship in honor of her longtime friends, the late Nelda and Col. David Cravey '49 (below).



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AggieNetwork.com



The Texas A&M Foundation aspires to be among the most trusted philanthropies in higher education. It builds a brighter future for Texas A&M University, one relationship at a time.

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The 12th Man Foundation funds scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics.

12thmanfoundation.com



The George & Barbara Bush Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacies of President and Mrs. Bush by supporting the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and The Bush School of Government and Public Service.

georgeandbarbarabush.org

LEAD *by* EXAMPLE

The Lead by Example campaign is a \$4 billion fundraising effort for Texas A&M University. | leadbyexample.tamu.edu



12th Can

The 12th Can, a student-run food pantry affiliated with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, launched in 2013 to serve all students, faculty and staff in need of assistance. The organization conducts food drives, raises awareness about food insecurity and oversees a program that allows Aggies with excess meal credits on their meal plans to donate them to students in need. "The goal of the 12th Can is to ensure no Aggie ever goes hungry," said Director Michael Collum '20.

Gifts to the 12th Can help purchase food and reusable bags, which are provided free to consumers. The organization also seeks funds for its marketing efforts and for a freestanding building to house its pantry. Give online at give.am/Support12thCan.

Aggies Serving Aggies

FIVE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUPS YOU CAN SUPPORT THAT ARE MAKING A VITAL DIFFERENCE THROUGH SELFLESS SERVICE.

By Clare Fusselman '21



Emergency Care Team

In the spirit of Aggies helping Aggies, the Texas A&M Emergency Care Team, an all-volunteer student organization, lends medical assistance to standby EMTs and first responders at major university events. Members help provide physical assessments and first aid, allowing EMTs to focus on bigger issues. The group also renders first aid education and training to the Aggie student body. "Each member of Care Team showcases their empathy and work ethic," President Madeline Ross '21 said.

Gifts to the Emergency Care Team will help purchase new equipment and fund training opportunities for members. Give online at give.am/EmergencyCareTeamFund.



HelpLine

Sometimes, a listening ear is the best medicine. HelpLine is an after-hours mental health service offered by Texas A&M Counseling & Psychological Services that is available to every Texas A&M student for confidential support, referrals and crisis interventions. Manned by empathetic student volunteers who undergo a rigorous 55-hour training period before they answer their first call, HelpLine assists individuals with whatever is troubling them. "Student welfare is the ultimate priority of not just HelpLine, but our entire university," said Vy Tran '16, a volunteer. "HelpLine is the compassionate heart of Texas A&M."

HelpLine welcomes funds to support volunteers through book stipends and tuition scholarships or travel to conferences. Gifts also bolster its operations and marketing efforts. Give online at give.am/HoustonMCHelpLine.



Career Closet

First impressions matter, especially in a job interview. Unfortunately, many college students cannot afford to purchase the necessary professional attire. That's where the Career Closet, a Texas A&M student-run organization, helps Aggies dress for success. The organization rents business attire to students for interviews, networking events and other occasions for up to one week.

Funds to the Career Closet support the purchase of new clothing items and care of existing clothing, such as dry cleaning, alterations and mending, as well as marketing efforts. Give online at give.am/CareerCloset.

BTHO: Built to Help Others

After watching Hurricane Harvey devastate the Houston area, Schuyler Lamm '19 and a few other Aggies founded Built to Help Others (BTHO). Initially, BTHO served more than 50 households and supported many others in need after Harvey. Today, the organization serves those affected by disasters and other devastating circumstances, and recently partnered with Habitat for Humanity to assist Bryan-College Station residents with home repairs.

BTHO seeks gifts to fund supplies for its volunteer efforts in Houston and the Bryan-College Station community. Give online at give.am/BTHOFund.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS, CONTACT:

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final review

The Texas Viticulture Trail

If you're a wine drinker, you've seen the names "Sonoma Valley" and "Russian River Valley" on wine labels. Those California regions are designated American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). Texas has eight of its own AVAs. The designation indicates that grapes grown in that particular geographic district have a certain quality, reputation or other characteristic of note.

- 1. **Texas Hill Country:** This is the nation's second largest AVA at 9 million acres.
- 2. **Texas High Plains:** More than 80% of the wine grapes in Texas are grown here.
- 3. **Bell Mountain:** Located 15 miles outside Fredericksburg, this was Texas' first AVA.
- 4. **Fredericksburg:** This AVA covers 110 square miles in the Texas Hill Country.
- 5. **Escondido Valley:** This West Texas area covers 50 square miles in Pecos County.
- 6. **Mesilla Valley:** Located at the western tip of Texas, this dry area has a long growing season.
- 7. **Texas Davis Mountains:** This cool, wet area has an elevation ranging from 4,500 to 8,300 feet.
- 8. **Texoma:** Located along the Texas-Oklahoma border, this AVA covers 3,650 square miles.