

## Three Surprises That Inspire

issue of *Spirit* includes at least three examples of how surprises can change the course of our lives in delightful ways.

The first example involves Wanda and Bill Soltis '55. In the late 1990s, the Soltis family fell in love with Costa Rica. A friend introduced Bill to the country's pristine rainforest ecosystem, which is protected between two permanent reserves that provide endless opportunities for the study of tropical species and their environment. The surprise came when Bill offered to create a living, learning setting within that rainforest by donating the adjacent land and a facility to Texas A&M. The Soltis Center is the only international campus that the university both owns and manages, and our hope is to improve it so that more students and faculty can experience its beauty and benefits.

s I reviewed preliminary drafts of our stories, an idea struck me: This

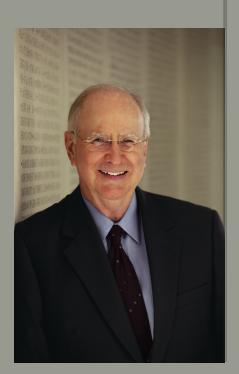
Cliff Taylor '49 is another unforgettable surprise. Known by many for his long and deep devotion to Texas A&M and his undying interest in everything related to Aggie athletics, Cliff spent a lifetime working for Ella and W.C. McFadden, who owned Southland Royalty Co. in Fort Worth. The McFaddens created a charitable trust and named Cliff one of its trustees. In 1985, Cliff was instrumental in directing nearly \$25 million (today's market value) to Texas A&M from the trust, primarily for scholarships to assist talented, high-performing students. The impact of this one act of generosity was not only a great surprise but also substantially upgraded the academic reputation of Texas A&M.

The final surprise involves Justin "JT" Tash '15, a senior studying communication who also happens to work at the Texas A&M Foundation. The son of a special operations enlisted helicopter aircrewman, JT moved around the world a lot as a child. So when he arrived on campus as a fish cadet, he found himself lonely, lost and out of place among his enthusiastic classmates, most of whom had deep Aggie roots. It would be an understatement to say that JT was surprised when he discovered that his grandfather, whom he had never known, taught at Texas A&M many years before. This poignant moment permanently changed the young man's outlook on Texas A&M.

We love surprises, particularly those that fundamentally change lives. After all, that's why we are here.

EDDIE J. DAVIS '67
PRESIDENT

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION



## SPIRIT



Important in the effort to set the Texas A&M University School of Law apart from other institutions is the intangible aspect that Texas A&M offers, a force unmatched by other major universities—spirit. » p.28

## Contents



## 16

PURA VIDA & GIG 'EM
Research and culture blend at Texas
A&M's Soltis Center in Costa Rica.

## 24

Faculty Impact:

WHERE ACADEMICS MEET INDUSTRY The Trading, Risk & Investments Program at the Mays Business School gives finance students a distinct advantage.

## 28

College Impact:

LAW AND (THE NEW) ORDER Introducing the Texas A&M University School of Law, a new bastion of Aggie influence, spirit and tradition in Texas.

## 34

Student Impact:

THE FACILITATOR OF FUTURES Clifford A. Taylor Jr. '49, who made it his responsibility to help others, became one of Texas A&M's most impactful donors.

## 38

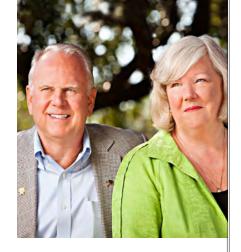
Spirit Impact:

FAITH FACELIFT

The All Faiths Chapel got its first substantial makeover since opening its doors in 1957.

Located on lush mountain slopes in the Costa Rican rainforest is the Texas A&M Soltis Center for Research and Education. » p.16





Two gifts made to the Texas A&M Foundation by Cynthia and Douglas Kennedy '69 expanded the renovation of All Faiths Chapel, which was initially funded by The Association of Former Students. » p.38

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28-33; 42; 47-48)

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Texas A&M College of Architecture (p. 2;

6, bottom left)

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (p. 6, top right)

Texas A&M Cushing Memorial Library &

Archives (p. 4, top left; 14-15)

Texas A&M Department of Biomedical

Engineering (p. 9, bottom left)

Texas A&M Department of Residence Life (p. 7, right)

Texas A&M Dwight Look College of Engineering (p. 11, bottom right)

The Bush School of Government and

Public Service (p. 10)

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## DEPARTMENTS

## 3 THE LEGACY

One couple's passion for horticulture and cattle ranching has inspired them to create an endowed scholarship to support agriculture students.

### 4 LETTERS/CORRECTIONS

### 6 ON CAMPUS

Construction begins on veterinary medicine complex; Aggieland app improves game-day experience.

### 8 LAB WORK

Ancient skeleton proves origins of early North Americans; technology detects water contamination.

### 10 NEW GIFTS

Scholarship honors former President George H.W. Bush; 13-year-old's cancer battle inspires scholarship.

## 12 ONE VOICE

A serendipitous discovery reinforced that Texas A&M is where I belong. By Justin "JT" Tash '15

## 14 VIEWPOINT

Annual dances hosted by the Ross Volunteers marked the height of Aggieland's social season in the 1920s.

### 42 OPPORTUNITY

Biomedical engineering students showcase real-world health care solutions with senior design projects.

## 44 @FOUNDATION

Clean audits mark Foundation's history; the first in a series on Foundation employees who have funded major gifts for Texas A&M.

## 46 POSTSCRIPT

"Molding Answers for Cancer" By Dr. Deborah Bell-Pedersen

47 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

87 CONTACT US

Students from several disciplines are testing out living walls and rooftop greenery to reduce energy use, cleanse storm water and improve air quality. > p.6



## Contents

COVER PHOTO

Amelia Min-Venditti '16, an ecosystem science and management graduate student, is part of a Texas A&M University team studying water flow in trees to analyze the hydrology of the Costa Rican rainforest. Students from many disciplines benefit from the hands-on experience offered at the Texas A&M Soltis Center for Research and Education.

Diane and Charles Perez recently funded five \$1,000 annual scholarships with preferences for animal science and horticulture students from Washington County.

## TheLegacy

took early retirement from Conoco-Phillips—where she'd served as liaison to the corporate secretary and general counsel—idling away the days in a rocking chair was the furthest thing from her mind. Instead, she dove headlong into pursuing her passions: horticulture and ranching.

Perez is chair of The Landscape Design School—a continuing education program for horticulture enthusiasts sponsored by Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension and the Texas Garden Club. She and her husband Charles, a military veteran, also raise cattle on their small Washington County ranch, where they plan to relocate full time after his retirement.

Before taking on the role of senior project manager at IV-AGA Engineering, Charles worked for a natural gas processing company, where he had the opportunity to train young engineers. None impressed him more than those coming out of Texas A&M.

Visits to campus only solidified the Houston couple's positive impression of young Aggies. The students they encountered were respectful, genuine and kind. Most striking, though, was their clear calling to serve others a trait shared by the Perezes.

While neither Charles nor Diane graduated from Texas A&M, the university has touched their lives in multiple ways during the last several years.



## A Gift That Keeps Growing

Apart from The Landscape Design School, Diane has participated in Texas A&M beef cattle short courses. The soil and water at the couple's ranch is tested at the university, and as their agricultural pursuits grow, so does their list of Aggie contacts.

"WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS SOMETHING IN OUR WILL FOR TEXAS A&M THAT WILL LIVE ON."

-CHARLES PEREZ

These experiences led the couple to fund five \$1,000 annual pass-through scholarships with preferences for animal science and horticulture students from Washington County. The couple also created a bequest in their will to the Texas A&M Foundation that will endow the Charles E. and Diane McAlister Perez Scholarship. Through this endowment, horticulture and animal science students—particularly those from Washington County—will forever benefit from the Perezes' generosity.

Donors often use bequests as a way to ensure that their giving does not end after their lifetimes. The Perezes'

bequest ensures that Charles and Diane have full access to their assets now and that Texas A&M students will benefit from their gift in the future.

"We're just simple people who believe in God and believe we should help other people," Charles said. "We wanted to make sure there was something in our will for Texas A&M that won't just last a year, but that will live on."

When they build their permanent home on the ranch, the Perezes will rely on their cattle for beef and on their gardens for vegetables. "These two areas of agriculture are going to be our future," Diane explained. "In a larger sense, the beef and horticulture industries feed the world. So by supporting the education of students in those fields, we're also supporting global food resources. It's a domino effect: You help one student, and that one helps others. Gradually, it touches all of humanity."

To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit the university, you and your family, contact Glenn Pittsford '72 in the Office of Gift Planning at gpittsford@txamfoundation.com or (800) 392-3310.

## SPIRIT

## Letters

## Share Your Comments

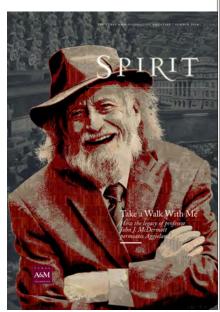
We always enjoy receiving our readers' reactions to Spirit. If any of the magazine's content moves you to write, please email us at info@txamfoundation.com or send a note on the postage-paid form on the inside back cover.

SONDRA WHITE '87

DUNAE CRENWELGE '15 & MEGAN KASPERBAUER Managing Editors

MONIKA BLACKWELL Assistant Editor

Summer 2014 Spirit magazine





Reveille III (1966-1975) was a well-behaved and disciplined classmate.

### UNFORGETTABLE CLASSMATE

Upon reading Dr. Landers Jr.'s letter in the spring 2014 issue of *Spirit* magazine, I found myself wanting to share my Reveille story with you, also.

I attended Texas A&M in the early '70s. I was a teacher with Killeen Independent School District when I was offered a job as a remedial teacher at Texas A&M with the provision that I begin work on an advanced degree in reading. My parents lived in Calvert, Texas, and I stayed with them a semester each summer and commuted to campus.

One summer I had a class with Reveille as well as the young Aggie who was keeping the mascot in his dorm room. I don't remember the class we took, but he brought a well-behaved and disciplined Reveille to class each morning for one summer semester.

How many Aggies can brag that they attended a class in which Reveille was also in attendance? Thank you for letting me share this memory with you.

- JACQUELINE STORRS BOOK '75 Longview, Texas

### A LOVELY ARTICLE

I have just received and read your lovely article, "Tapestry of Woven Tales," about Dr. McDermott. I write because I failed to see any mention of Dr. McDermott's joint appointment in the College of Medicine. Indeed, he was the founding department chair for the Department of Humanities in Medicine and retains the position of Joint Distinguished Professor of Humanities in Medicine. He is a cherished and respected member of our department, of whom we are duly proud.

Thank you for your excellent article on my friend and colleague. Gig 'em.

- MARY ELIZABETH HERRING '81 Wellborn, Texas

## TEACHING WITH AN IMPACT

Thank you for this wonderful article on John McDermott. His teaching changed the way I saw the world, and I know that is the same for so many others. I would leave a lecture on Aeschylus or The Bell Jar or Death of a Salesman, and the world was clearer, simpler and more beautiful.

I quit going to my regular church service which started half an hour after McDermott's Philosophy of Literature class ended. I too often debated the short-sightedness of the preacher, while I always sat in awe of McDermott's vision and humanity.

He taught me that it is never too late to apologize. He had me write a letter to my long-passed Granddaddy Moseley to tell him how sorry I was that I had avoided him when he was sick unto death.

He taught me that pain is a part of life and certainly a part of love. He talked about his son-in-law's death in a way that made me feel all of the pain and inevitability in it.

He taught me that people are strong, fragile, flawed and precious, and every one irreplaceable.

Professor John McDermott



Dr. Thomas Hargrove '66 was a Vietnam veteran who endured 11 months of Andean captivity on his journey to becoming one of the Green Revolution's finest.

He affirmed that there was more to school than grades, and taught me how to read for fun, depth and wisdom. He didn't really grade things, just badgered me with questions. I read more for his grade-free class than for most others, just because I wanted to connect as much as I could with his lectures.

- NEIL MOSELEY '00 Dallas, Texas

### THANKS FOR INCLUDING US



Laura '72 and Mikeual Perritt '69

Very nice article on the College of Architecture's study abroad programs in the last issue of *Spirit!* We're honored that we were considered for inclusion in the article, and more important, we hope it



might motivate others to consider some form of support.

— MIKEUAL '69 AND LAURA PERRITT '72 Alexandria, Virginia

### PROUD TO BE AN AGGIE

Howdy! I'm an old Ag, Class of '85, and I read the summer Postscript piece in the Foundation magazine this morning. I wanted to thank you for doing that for several reasons. One is that Dunae Crenwelge and I were introduced to the campus at the same age. My dad took me and several of my siblings to campus when I was six years old and encouraged us to attend. Not bad for an OU grad. My brother ('77) and three of my sisters attended ('76 & '82). We lost one sister to another school. But the high school valedictorian stayed. Lots of nieces and nephews graduated and three are still there.

Just wanted you to know I appreciated the article and it reminded me again why I am proud to be an Aggie. Gig 'em!

- JOE CONWAY '85 Alpharetta, Georgia

## MEMORIES OF AN OLD FRIEND

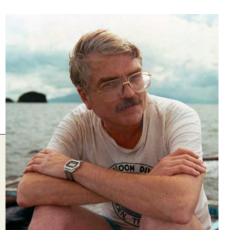
Just wanted to thank you for the very nice article in the last issue of *Spirit* magazine about my dear friend Tom Hargrove.

Tom and I worked together for five years at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. We also went SCUBA diving and wrote country music together. Tom wrote the lyrics, and I put them to music. We had a long history of friendship, and I am delighted that a memorial scholarship has been established in his name. I will be contributing. Thanks very much.

— MERLE SHEPARD '71 Charleston, South Carolina

## A CREDIT TO TEXAS A&M

I am extremely delighted that you decided to include an article on Thomas Hargrove in *Spirit* magazine. I heard him speak many years ago about his time as a captive in Colombia when I was attending a course on global terrorism. He also auto-



graphed a copy of his book for me that detailed his time in captivity. He was a great speaker and credit to this university. Thanks again.

DAVE BAUMGARDNER '08
 Department of Biology
 Texas A&M University
 College Station, Texas

### A TESTAMENT TO "AGGIE"

Dr. Ed Davis' letter in the recent *Spirit* magazine was great. I knew Tom Hargrove and interviewed him, and he remains one of the most interesting Aggies I have come across.

- JOHN A. ADAMS JR. '73 College Station, Texas

## FIRST RATE PUBLICATION

I read with great interest the *Spirit* magazine every time it arrives. Your work through this publication is absolutely first-rate. It's thoughtful, broad and deep, and truly professional. Never promotional, it highlights Texas A&M's values in strong ways. Not that I'm any expert, I get a lot of these sorts of magazines. Keep up the excellent work. And keep the issues coming.

Gig 'em,

- RAY ROTHROCK '77
Portola Valley, California

## PLEASANTLY AWAKENED BY SPIRIT

I just returned from Salzburg after six days of concerts and operas. As jet lagged as I was, I was pleasantly awakened by reading this issue of *Spirit* magazine. The article on John McDermott is exceptionally well-written. The rest of the magazine is excellent as well, and I read it from cover to cover notwithstanding my somnolence. My congratulations to you and all the writers on an outstanding product.

— SHARIQ YOSUFZAI '74
Oakland, California

## <u>OnCampus</u>

## Living Walls Liven Campus Greenery

Students from several disciplines are testing out living walls and rooftop greenery on building A of Texas A&M University's Langford Architecture Center to learn which types of plant species can thrive in Texas' extreme climate.

Graduate and undergraduate landscape architecture, horticulture and meteorology students are part of this three-year collaborative research project that began in 2012, made possible by a Texas A&M Tier One Program grant. They are designing and testing walls that are partially or completely covered with vegetation using integrated irrigation systems.

Such green roofs and walls promise many benefits, including lowering a building's energy use, cleansing storm water, improving air quality and providing aesthetic benefits and higher property values.

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, the associate professor of landscape architecture leading the project along with colleagues Dr. Astrid Volder and Dr. Don Conlee, has identified more than a dozen species that are growing successfully on the Langford green roof. Finding plants that will thrive in a green wall setting has been more of a challenge.

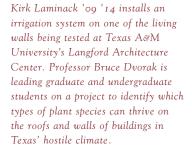
"Some plants have fibrous roots, some plants have bulbs, and different forms of plants have different adaptability to living walls," Dvorak said.

Students have planted yarrow, climbing fig ivy, sedge, rosemary and thyme on green walls at Langford. Each wall is designed differently in an effort to learn which plants thrive in each respective design. To learn more, visit tamugreenroof.wordpress.com.



The addition of a new education complex to Texas A&M University's West Campus will enhance opportunities for teaching and student learning in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) & Biomedical Sciences. Construction on the facility began in July and is expected to end in 2016 in time to celebrate the college's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The 300,000-square-foot facility, which includes three buildings and a





Construction began in July on a new Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex on West Campus to enhance opportunities for teaching and student learning. The 300,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in 2016.

courtyard, will include space for large classrooms, simulation labs and small group interactions.

Funding for the \$120 million complex is coming from the Permanent University Fund, a public endowment that supplements funding for the Texas A&M and University of Texas systems.

"The new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex will solidify the CVM's position as a leader in innovative veterinary and biomedical education now and well into the future," said Dr. Eleanor Green, the Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "It will provide flexible teaching spaces to enhance high impact, interactive learning opportunities. Clinical skills and simulation laboratories will help ensure career-ready veterinary graduates. The facility will enhance One Health educational opportunities among students across the health sciences and beyond."

Individuals and organizations have the opportunity to name the entire facility as well as its components, such as the courtyard, classrooms, labs, offices, student and faculty lounges, and reception spaces. For more information, contact Guy Sheppard '76 at gsheppard@txamfoundation.com or call 979-845-9043.

## App Improves Game-Day Experience

Texas A&M University football fans can better enjoy their game-day experience with the help of a new application for

mobile devices called Destination Aggieland.



The app offers real-time information on traffic conditions, bus routes, road closures and detours during home football game weekends. It

### Revamps and Renovations to On-Campus Housing

Ongoing changes to on-campus housing include the addition of student housing to West Campus, the establishment of a new Living Learning Community in Hullabaloo Hall and minor improvements to Corps of Cadet housing, with major renovations to follow.

On-campus housing will expand to West Campus for the first time in the university's history during the next two years. An apartment-style housing unit accommodating 1,200 students is projected to open in fall 2015, with a second residence hall-style unit set to open in 2016 for another 1,200 students.

The Department of Residence Life has been working with administrators to ensure that students receive quality, inexpensive and convenient housing in keeping with existing on-campus options.

In other renovations, the Quadrangle introduced minor improvements at the start of the fall semester, including the reopening of Dorm 7 (Leonard Hall) which houses the new H. Grady Ash Jr. '58 Leadership Learning Center.

Additionally, Startup Aggieland and Residence Life collaborated to bring a new Startup Living Learning Community (LLC) to Hullabaloo Hall this fall semester. The facility will allow select freshmen interested in entrepreneurship to develop business skills and build patent portfolios by collaborating with former students and staff at Startup Aggieland, a student-led resource for entrepreneurs.

The Startup LLC, though similar to other learning communities at Texas A&M, stands apart in that it is based on students' interests rather than their majors. One of the LLC's first programs this fall was a code-a-thon to help develop student programming skills and expose freshmen to the experience of working on a team.

Changes to on-campus housing include the establishment of a new Living Learning Community in Hullabaloo Hall (below) this fall.



also gives users the ability to pay in advance for parking and features an "Around Town" tab highlighting local restaurant, bar and entertainment options.

Released in early August, the app is part of a larger plan to manage traffic and pedestrian safety around the expanded and renovated Kyle Field and is helping streamline the entire game-day process for fans.

The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) coordinated the app's development, while CrowdTorch programmed the technology. Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp '72 proposed the idea following the 2013 football season.

"Following the first two home football games, we received over 17,000 app downloads," said TTI senior research engineer Tim Lomax '79, who is leading the project. "We also experienced increased shuttle bus ridership over last football season, resulting in fewer cars near the stadium."

The app is available for download through the university's TAMUmobile app, on Apple's App Store and Google Play, and at gameday.12thman.com.

Texas A&M Anthropology Professor Michael Waters has been conducting research on the first inhabitants of the Americas for more than 30 years. In a recent field project, he and a team have confirmed based on genetic evidence that early human settlers in North America—the Clovis people—were from Asia and not Europe.



## LabWork

## Saving Lives in Tight Spots

To improve the ability of emergency responders to transport patients from the scene of injury to a hospital, Dr. Mark Benden '89, associate professor of environmental and occupational health at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, and Dr. Eric Wilke '92 '95, medical director at the College Station



Drs. Mark Benden '89 and Eric Wilke '92 '95 are collaborating on the design and production of the AmbiCycle™—a motorcycle-like vehicle that will improve the ability of emergency responders to transport injured patients to hospitals.

Fire Department, are designing an alternative compact transportation device known as the AmbiCycle $^{\text{m}}$ .

About the width of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, the three-wheeled AmbiCycle is nine feet long and is designed to evacuate patients from at-risk areas or those damaged by natural disasters.

"The AmbiCycle is the only patient transport vehicle that can make it through gridlocked traffic to get a patient to care during the 'golden hour'—the first hour after the occurrence of traumatic injury," said Benden, noting that typical ambulances—measuring 20 feet long and eight feet high—struggle to maneuver through congestion and narrow roads. "The AmbiCycle also allows the driver and patient to be on the same plane to maintain visual contact."

Enhancements to the device, such as equipping the driver's helmet with patient wireless vital sign monitoring and audible alarms that signal when unsafe vital sign levels are registered, will ensure that patient care is maintained during transport.

## Ancient Skeleton Proves Origins of Early North Americans

The first genome sequencing of the Ice Age skeletal remains of a 1-year-old boy has given scientists definitive proof that the earliest human settlers in North America were from Asia and not Europe, according to research by an international team that includes Texas A&M University Anthropology Professor Michael Waters.

In 1968, the skeletal remains of a 12,600-year-old Clovis child—known as the Anzick boy—were found in central Montana, along with more than 100 burial artifacts.

Waters partnered with Eske Willerslev from the Centre of Excellence in GeoGenetics at the Natural History Museum of Denmark to perform genetic testing on the remains of the Anzick boy to confirm that North America's earliest settlers are of Asian descent.

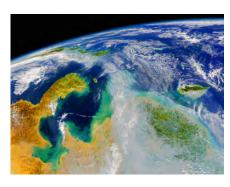
"We were able to extract DNA from the bones and show that the ancestors of this boy originated from Asia. Those pre-Clovis ancestors eventually migrated to North America, settled the continent, and gave rise to Clovis," Waters said.

Clovis is the first widespread prehistoric culture that appeared 13,000 years ago. It originated south of the large ice sheets that covered Canada at that time and are the direct descendants of the earliest people who arrived in the New World around 15,000 years ago.

## **Pollution Prognosis**

Extreme air pollution in Asia—much of it coming from China—is affecting the world's weather and climate patterns, according to a study by Texas A&M University researchers.

Texas A&M atmospheric sciences professors Renyi Zhang and R. Saravanan and former doctoral student Yuan Wang '13 are studying climate models and data collected about aerosols and meteorology to examine how Asian air pollution is impacting global air circulations. "The models clearly show that pollution originating from Asia has an impact on the atmosphere, affecting cloud formations, precipitation and storm intensity—and these factors may eventually impact weather patterns and climate across the world, including in North America," Zhang said.



A satellite view shows the long-range transport of Asian haze plumes from China's interior across the Pacific Ocean.

Zhang adds that air pollution levels in some Chinese cities, such as Beijing, are often more than 100 times higher than acceptable limits set by the World Health Organization. Conditions tend to worsen during winter

months when a combination of stagnant weather patterns mixed with increased coal burning in many Asian cities creates pollution and smog that can last for weeks.

"As a result, huge amounts of aerosols from Asia go as high as six miles up in the atmosphere, unmistakably impacting cloud formations," Sarayanan said.

## **Exploring Religion in Internet Memes**

Professor of Communication Heidi Campbell and a team of graduate students at Texas A&M University are studying Internet religious memes in an effort to better understand how religion is viewed in modern society.

Internet memes generally take the form of an image over which text is written. Intended to be humorous, memes often use sarcasm, pop culture references and puns to relay an idea or poke fun.

"Internet memes tend to boil down complex ideas into broad generalizations that can express popular assumptions or biases about religion. As a result, images and messages about religion often become over-simplified or distorted," said Campbell, who specializes in new media, religion and digital culture. "This helps highlight what people see as important or problematic in religion."

Her team, which focused on Christian, Islamic and Jewish memes, found that each break down religion in positive and negative ways, either rejecting or promoting religious stereotypes, but always making religious ideas more accessible and popularized. Even though religion is a sensitive subject, Campbell said that for many people, "religion and humor can mix well together."

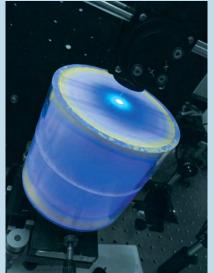
Their study is part of a larger effort to understand how people utilize new media and the Internet to interact with religion.

## Research That Holds Water

Working with a team of collaborators, Professor Vladislav Yakovlev in the Department of Biomedical Engineering has developed an ultrasensitive technology capable of sampling water systems to find indicators of fecal matter contamination that are thousandths and even millionths of times smaller than those found by conventional methods.

The highly sensitive, easy-to-implement technology, referred to as an integrated cavity, detects urobilin, a byproduct excreted in the urine and feces of many mammals, including humans.

At home and abroad, animal and human waste can contaminate both recreational and source waters, carrying with it diseases such as polio, typhoid and cholera. This waste may also result in environmental crises. Such contamination might be mitigated or avoided if samples from water systems are more thoroughly analyzed.



Until now, high costs, sample-size limitations and lengthy analysis times have posed challenges. The integrated cavity, however, can be produced for a few hundred dollars, has the ability to analyze large samples and produces results in real-time using phosphorescent detection of urobilin.

"The bigger the sample, the better," Yakovlev said. "We can demonstrate detection of ultralow concentrations of urobilin in solution. This is a huge improvement in terms of sensitivity, and our technique has tremendous potential for analysis of global drinking water supplies, particularly in developing nations and following natural disasters."

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

## NewGifts



Former President George H.W. Bush, who celebrated his 90th birthday in June, remains active in affairs at Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service. This connection allows him and his wife Barbara to regularly interact with current and former students like Joy Jauer '11, a public service and administration graduate.

## Students Honor Bush with Scholarship

To commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States' 41<sup>st</sup> president, George H.W. Bush, members of the Bush School Former Student Network established a \$41,000 endowed scholarship at The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

The Bush School Former Student Scholarship Program will fund general scholarships to support students at The Bush School, a professional college offering master's level education for those aspiring to careers in public service.

Fundraising efforts were led by former Bush School international affairs graduates Maj. Tyson Voelkel '96 and Katie Kaufman '07, who say that the scholarship will entice and assist highachieving students. "The Bush School's rigorous curriculum, combined with a focus on leadership development and the influence of the school's namesake, creates an atmosphere that is very rare in schools of public policy and administration," Voelkel said.

Ryan Crocker, dean and executive professor at The Bush School, says this scholarship is simply an extension of the school's mission statement: "to educate principled leaders in public and international affairs, conduct research and perform service."

## The Hallmark of Courage

To honor the trials of 13-year-old Ethan Hallmark, who passed away in September after a four-year battle with stage 4 high-risk unfavorable neuroblastoma, friends and family established an endowed scholarship in his name in the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine.

The \$2,000 scholarship stipend will be awarded annually to a medical student who demonstrates an interest in pursuing pediatric oncology and who is a survivor or has a family member who is a survivor of cancer.

"Ethan's story is an inspiring one that deserves to be told and to live on," said Brett Johnston '98, a colleague of Ethan's father who initiated the scholarship. "The courage and steadfast faith that Ethan and his family members have displayed serve as an inspiration. And if this courage is not



Through the Beads of Courage Program, children with serious illnesses like Ethan Hallmark— who passed away from cancer in September—receive beads from their health care provider, each representing a treatment or procedure they overcame.

enough, Ethan showed an amazingly empathetic heart, often more worried about others than himself. He touched more lives than his family will ever know."

Dallas-based Trinity Industries Inc., where Johnston and Ethan's father, Matt Hallmark '93, are employed, significantly increased the amount of the endowment through their matching gift program and their own gift.

## Planned Gift Supports Spiritual Paths

To support Aggies with an interest in spiritual careers, Col. Newton Cole '48 established a planned gift that will provide scholarships to students pursuing religious studies in the College of Liberal Arts and those involved in the Corps of Cadets' chaplain program.

Now retired, Cole served as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force for 36 years. These endowments reflect his lifelong passion for theology and spiritual development.



After graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in sociology, Cole earned master's degrees in divinity and religious

Col. Newton Cole '48 education from Southwestern Seminary and a mas-

ter's degree in public administration from George Washington University. He later completed a doctorate of ministry in 1993.

During his senior year at Texas A&M, Cole was asked to serve as an unofficial chaplain for the Corps of Cadets, initiating a position that would become official in later years.

"The chaplain program focuses on Corps of Cadets members who want to enter the military and become chaplains," Cole said. "I'm hoping these scholarships will encourage more cadets to pursue this career and bolster Texas A&M's religious studies program."

## Gift Boosts English and Engineering



Cuthbert "CC"
Burton '42 chose a combination of current and planned gifts to support scholarships for an unlikely pair of

Cuthbert Burton '42 Texas A&M University departments—mechanical engineering and English.

Before his passing in August 2012, Burton established two \$25,000 endowments to provide scholarships for junior and senior students pursuing degrees in mechanical engineering and English. After his passing, gifts from a trust were added equally to these endowments, bringing their combined value to more than \$7 million.

With his Texas A&M mechanical engineering degree, Burton worked for the Dow Magnesium Corp. in Freeport, Texas, until his retirement in 1984.

His career led him to support mechanical engineering, while his support for English honors his wife Lou, who majored in English at Baylor University.

### Chevron Gives \$1.5 Million

Chevron Corp. announced a \$1.5 million contribution to Texas A&M University in support of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, College of Geosciences, Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health and the Mays Business School.

Including this donation, Chevron has invested more than \$28 million in Texas A&M during the past eight years.

Funds from the company's recent contribution will be used to implement a CT scanner lab for the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering; to create a Chevron Center of Research Excellence at the Berg-Hughes Center for geological modeling; and to provide curriculum development at the School of Public Health.

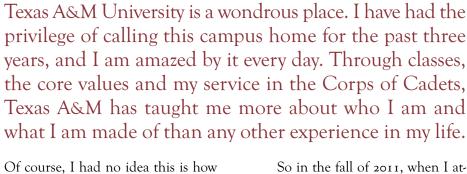
Chevron Corp. has invested more than \$28 million in Texas A&M University during the past eight years, including its latest \$1.5 million in support of four Texas A&M colleges.



## OneVoice

## Family Connections

A SERENDIPITOUS DISCOVERY
REINFORCED THAT TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY IS WHERE I BELONG.



Of course, I had no idea this is how I would feel when I came to College Station as a freshman.

I arrived on campus for the first time with what I quickly learned was a unique background due to the fact that I was not a native Texan. Practically everyone around me had known about Texas A&M since birth and wanted to go here since they could speak. And everyone was absolutely in love with football.

I was none of those things.

The Tash family has never fit a traditional mold. As a military family, we traveled to many places. My brother and I were born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Lakenheath, England, respectively. My parents, Lowell and Beverly, survived a number of trials: my dad was frequently absent due to his service in Air Force special operations; our family moved six times in five years to three different countries; my mom switched jobs multiple times; and they lived on the island of Luzon in the Philippines during the largest volcanic eruption of the century (Mount Pinatubo). Our family dealt with all of this with little to no support from other relatives.

So in the fall of 2011, when I attended Freshmen Orientation Week (FOW) for the Corps of Cadets, I had never felt more alone. Everyone around me was talking about how they had always wanted to be in the Corps and the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Most of them knew where the others had grown up, and they all seemed to have some connection to this place. When I piped up and said I was born in England, had only learned about Texas A&M just in time to apply, joined the band without ever seeing a performance, and that football was probably my least favorite sport, I received looks of awestruck disbelief. There is nothing like a warm welcome for an outsider who already feels alienated. I was suddenly lonelier than I had ever been.

FOW was the hardest week of my life. It was a constant stream of learning how to be a cadet—how to make a bed; how to get in and out of uniform as fast as possible; how to march in the greatest band in the land; how to make a bed (again); how to get yelled at and keep moving; and how to run, sweat and be the most tired that you've ever been but to find a way to keep going.



Lowell H. Tash Sr. was a former researcher and teacher in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University.

This did not help my feeling that I simply did not belong here. I felt like the cards were stacked against me, and that the odds I had to overcome were too great. I was excited for classes to start because it meant the end of FOW, but my excitement was overshadowed by a heavy heart.

My first day of classes at Texas A&M is one that I will never forget. My Monday started with a 10:20 a.m. History 106 class in the Animal Industries Building, which I had heard described as "the haunted-looking one." Being the naïve young freshman that I was and not wanting to be late—combined with an intense desire to get off of the Corps-controlled Quad as fast as possible—I found myself there at about 9 a.m. With nothing

to do and not knowing where else to go, I decided to look around.

That's when I made a discovery that changed my life at Texas A&M forever.

I walked around the building twice before I found a panel of old photos, yellowed with time. In one of them, a familiar face caught my eye. Standing next to some other men and a horse was a man in a cowboy hat who looked exactly like my dad. I knew it couldn't be him because the first thing in the description was the date 1939. My dad wasn't even close to being born that year. As I read on, the description began to list the names of the men. The name of the man in the hat blew me away.

"Lowell H. Tash Sr."



The man in the photograph was my grandfather!

I couldn't believe my eyes. I had never met Lowell Sr. because he had passed away when my dad was 18. My father rarely talked about him, yet there he was, in a picture that identified him as a former researcher and teacher in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M. As soon as I could, I went to the Cushing Library to look through records and confirmed that I wasn't dreaming. In addition to working at Texas A&M, Lowell Sr. had been a captain in the U.S. Army, had fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II and had been employed by the King Ranch.

This discovery changed my outlook on Texas A&M. Knowing that my grandfather had been here and that he had helped mold this campus in even a small way made me feel like I had found a place where I belonged. My grandfather had taught cadets wearing the same uniform that I was wearing, and it made me feel like I was closer to him, even though I had never met him. This family connection was the catalyst for what has become one of the best experiences of my life. As I enter my senior year as a communication major and as the infantry band commander of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, and as I prepare myself for life outside of Aggieland as a future United States Air Force officer, I am confident that Texas A&M has given me the tools I need.

No matter what hurdles I have jumped, or what odds I have faced, and even though I still dislike football, I have found my connection to Texas A&M.

-BY JUSTIN "JT" TASH '15

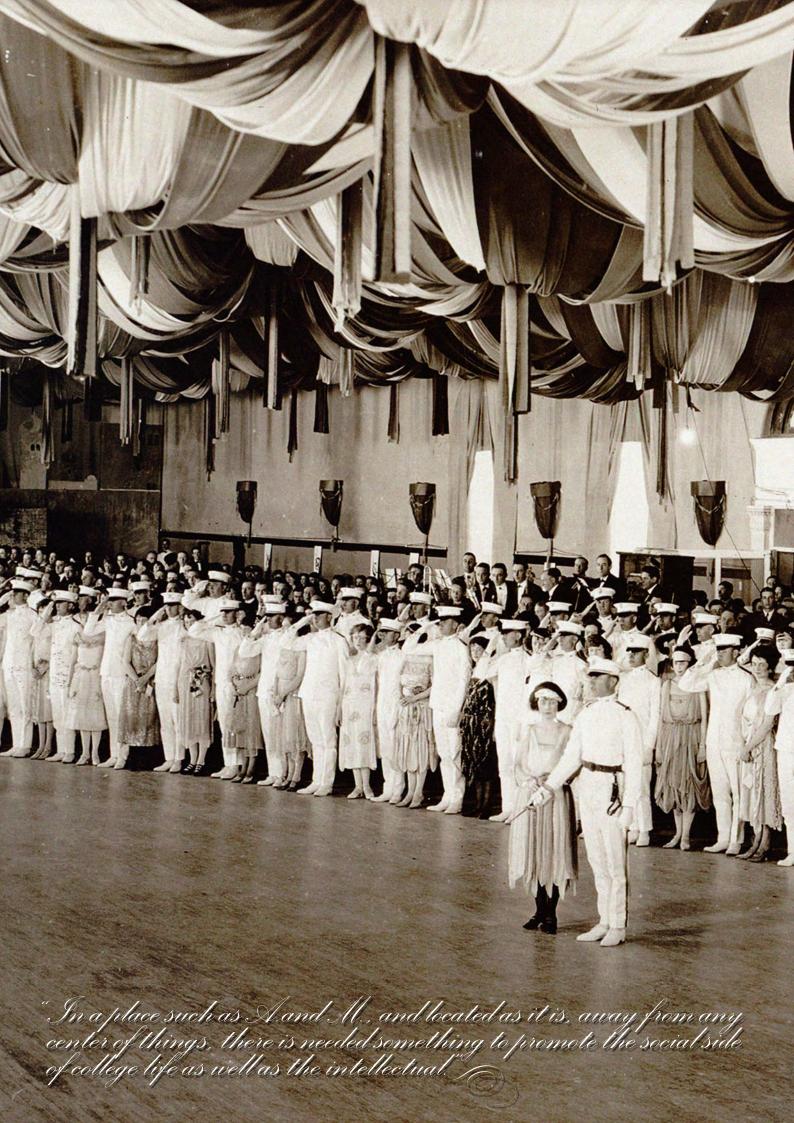
Justin "JT" Tash '15 found a personal connection to Texas A&M through a bond to the grandfather he never knew.

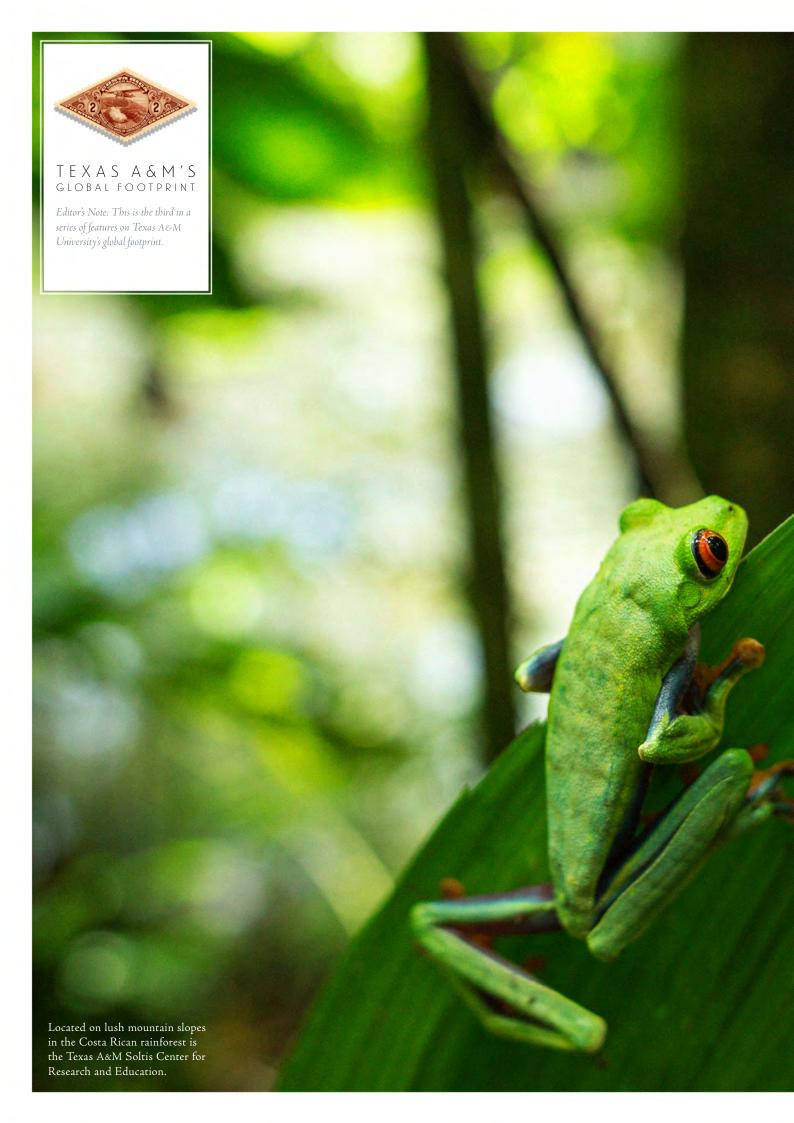


In the 1920s, Sbisa Dining Hall transformed into a scene of splendor, celebration and festivity as the annual Ross Volunteer dances played out within its walls. Three dances, held each April, marked the height of the spring semester and the Aggie social season. In this photo from the 1923 R.V. Hop, Ross Volunteers and their dates assemble for a dance. Shared here is an excerpt from the 1924 Aggieland yearbook, illustrating the grandeur of the activities.

"The dances [given by the Ross Volunteers] are the best that are given this side of the Mason-Dixon Line. There are three dances: the Queen's Ball, the R.V. Hop and a Corps Dance, given on three days set aside by the college and usually about the 21st of April. The elaborateness of the decoration, the choice of the music and the general

spirit of the welcome make the festivities a looked-for occasion in the life of Aggieland. It is like a sparkling oasis to the desert-worn traveler. Every little detail is worked out to perfection by a committee that is thoroughly familiar with each part of the work and no expense is spared to make the occasion a success. We do not believe that a well-rounded man is the one who spends all of his time engrossed in study. One must have the pleasures in life as well as the study, and the R.V. serves as a welcome repast to the hard grind of a college year. But it serves another purpose equally well, and that is the opportunity for those who have gone out into the world, from here, to come back and view again those happy scenes of college days. Old friends who have been separated are reunited and can review old times. Also it serves as a very appropriate time for those who have never seen the institution to see it in all of its glory."







Research and culture blend at Texas A&M University's Soltis Center in Costa Rica.

As she tramped through the undergrowth in the Costa Rican rainforest, Amelia Min-Venditti '16 admitted she was nervous. "I'm extra anxious about the tree bottoms," she said as she approached the wet, slick trunk of a cecropia tree. "The bullet ants like tree bottoms. Everything likes tree bottoms." The day before, she had been bitten by an inch-long bullet ant — a searing pain she won't soon forget. Gingerly, she slid by a low plant with leaves the size of snowshoes. "This is the body odor plant. I don't want to break it." There was a snap as she passed.

Her research partner, Luiza M.T. Aparecido '17, groaned. "It smells like sweaty adolescent boy!"

But Min-Venditti pushed on. She was, after all, on a scientific mission. She wrapped a tape measure around the trunk and called out the tree's diameter to Aparecido, who recorded it in a notebook. Min-Venditti and Aparecido, both graduate stu-

dents, were part of a Texas A&M University team studying the water flow in trees as part of a project analyzing the hydrology of the rainforest. But this isn't just any rainforest. It is Texas A&M's own rainforest, at the university's own field station. The Texas A&M Soltis Center for Research and Education, located on lush mountain slopes near the town of San Isidro de Peñas Blancas in Costa Rica, was a gift from Wanda and Bill Soltis '55, who wanted to help advance scientific research, preserve a slice of the rainforest and add to Texas A&M's growing global reach. The center is the only international campus that the university actually owns and manages.

"It is Texas A&M's gateway to Latin America," said Chris Houser, the global faculty ambassador with the Global Program Support Office.

he Soltis Center, which officially opened in June 2009, is located in a transition zone between lowland rainforests and highland cloud forests that has not been studied thoroughly, thereby opening up many possibilities for new research. "Students and faculty who come here get a unique opportunity for international exposure, culturally and in tropical rainforest conditions. This is a chance for hands-on work, where students can get a better understanding of global changes," said Eugenio Gonzalez '96, Soltis Center executive director, as he walked through the canopy, under low branches draped with tinsel-like epiphytes. Gonzalez, who earned his doctorate at Texas A&M in forestry science, is a native Costa Rican and has led other scientific field stations in the country.

"The center is becoming a leading research hub in the tropics of the Western Hemisphere," he said.

The Soltis Center grew out of one couple's two loves— Texas A&M and the country of Costa Rica. Bill Soltis, who earned his degree in mechanical engineering, first visited the capital, San Jose, in 1997. Soon, he and Wanda were spending stretches of time in a home they'd purchased on the Pacific Coast. Through a business associate, he learned of a swatch of environmentally sensitive rainforest for sale.

"He bought it right away," said Kim Soltis Hammer about her father, who has long been committed to rainforest preservation. (Because her father suffered a stroke and her mother passed away in 2009, Hammer carries on her parents' work.) "It was totally out of character for him to do this so impulsively." But he saw the great potential of the land, which is primary and secondary rainforest at 1,500 to 2,300 feet above sea level and near two well-known preserves—Monte Verde Conservation Area and the Children's Eternal Rainforest. With the 290 acres at the Soltis Center and the adjacent preserves, researchers have access to some 120,000 acres that include more than 3,000 types of vascular plants and 400 bird species. Using wildlife cameras within the jungle, the center's naturalist, Alberth Rojas, has spotted pumas and a baby jaguar using the trails.

After the purchase, Soltis began working with the university to develop the site. The center's design was based on ideas from students in Texas A&M's Department of Architecture. The \$9 million complex includes a large classroom-and-commons area that is partly open-air; from a lounge visitors can watch toucans and tanagers fly while listening to howler monkeys and an intoxicating symphony of tropical chirps and whirrs. Eight bungalows—each with two rooms outfitted with four bunk beds—climb up a hillside, nestled among umbrella-leafed licuala palms and vibrant bird of paradise flowers.

One of the center's key features is a 126-feet-high canopy tower, which enables scientists to study conditions at different levels in the rainforest. Funding for the tower















Top left: Plants and wildlife abound at the Soltis Center, including purple glory bushes and glass frogs (right) — unique due to their transparency.

© Courtney Merket '15 (top right) is a civil engineering major who received a summer research grant to measure the rain that makes its way to the rainforest floor. © Bottom: Ryan Andrews '16, who is working on his master's in civil engineering, hopes to have a career in international development, working on irrigation projects. "Being able to do water research outside the U.S. is really big for me," he said.





came through various grants and donations; having the tower has opened doors to other grants and research possibilities. What makes this tower unique is that it has electricity and Wi-Fi capabilities—something many rainforest research centers lack. Right now, the tower is studded with instrumentation up its height—devices to monitor humidity, leaf wetness and carbon dioxide levels. When scientists return to College Station, they can see data as it's collected via the Internet. Hammer hopes that biologists could one day add wildlife webcams on the tower.

"I've worked at research centers in the Amazon," said Aparecido, who is pursuing her doctorate in forest management and ecohydrology, the study of the interaction between water and ecosystems. "The centers in Brazil were fine, but the Soltis Center is really top-notch."

nother of the Soltis Center's advantages is

that it is multi-disciplinary. Hammer said that her father assumed the center would be used mainly to work with plants and wild-life for biological research, but it has evolved to be far more. "Because of Texas A&M, we have a great opportunity to bring together a variety of arts and sciences in one place," said Gonzalez. "We can look at the whole picture—the human and physical environment." As noted by Houser, "It is far more than just a field station in the jungle. It also provides an opportunity for students to explore art, culture, business and health issues of Central America."

Regular visitors include students from the colleges of geosciences, agriculture, education, architecture and engineering. Faculty from civil engineering have brought students to the center for the past five summers. The students, many of them undergraduates, built a weir—a small dam—to measure stream flow and tested other hydrological processes in the rainforest. (And there is plenty of hydrology here; the area gets roughly 180 inches of rain per year.) With support from the oil and gas industry, Texas A&M geology students have spent the past two years mapping the local geology with students from the University of Costa Rica.

Working at the center this past summer were graduate students in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences (WFSC) looking at a variety of topics, including migration corridors and parasites in the rodent population. In an ideal example of cross pollination, the WFSC students made presentations to another group of students at the center—a veterinary medicine conservation class led by Texas A&M professor Raymond Tarpley '71. "Working with biologists is important, because we as vets can know a lot about animals," said Tarpley, "but if we don't know about ecosystems, our efforts don't get translated into policy."

Through her research on three-toed sloths, Kelsey Neam '15, who is pursuing a master's in wildlife and fisheries sciences, found another opportunity for sharing. "I speak Spanish and have local Costa Ricans looking out for sloths for me. I think of this as an exchange. I can help improve their local environment through research, and they can give me information about the local history, the land and species that we don't know about," said Neam, who talked about her findings at a local high school at the end of her research trip. "They've told me that there used to be a particular jaguar in the area, but now they don't see it anymore. We wouldn't know that without their observations."

Indeed, the center has already had a large impact on the surrounding community, translating the university's tradition of service to an international scale. "One thing we realized is this wasn't just about what the students could get from Costa Rica," said Hammer, "but also about what the students could give back." The Texas A&M chapter of Engineers Without Borders, for example, has designed and built multiple improvements to the surrounding community's water distribution system as well as a computer lab building for the local school.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students advised local farmers on how to better market their crops in San Jose, and members of Aggies for Global Education taught Costa Rican students how to build and use robotics.

"Regardless of whether they're working in the jungle or with the local community," said Houser, "the center provides them with an authentic Costa Rican experience." Houser has been key in turning the center into a profitable under-

taking. Texas A&M pays for all operations and after starting out in the red, the center is now operating in the black. In 2014, the center will log about 4,500 student nights at a price of \$55 per visitor (room and board). Student groups often use it as a home base while exploring the local communities and businesses. The center is also open to corporations and other organi-

"This is a chance for hands-on work, where students can get a better understanding of global changes."

—Eugenio Gonzalez '96

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS A&M SOLTIS CENTER FOR

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

zations that want to use it for retreats and conferences. This fall, the center will host its first full-semester class—a class in tropical ecology through the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

hile the center has come a long way in five years, there is still work to be done to reach its full potential. Hammer and her husband Matt '80 have made crucial contributions for a state-of-the-art weather station and the installation of electricity at the tower. "At this point, to be able to reach outside of the family for funding would be great," said Hammer.

Gonzalez believes funding for a complete biodiversity survey of this part of the rainforest is vitally important. "A general characterization of the plant and animal life would be a starting point for any student or professor who is going to work here," he said. "This information attracts scientists; they will have a point of comparison for their research."

Other priorities include building up the center's infrastructure. More housing is needed, specifically for professors doing research and leading study abroad programs. Plans exist for updating and expanding the labs and for building an amphitheater for outdoor lectures. Although the center is close to zip line attractions and whitewater rafting, Hammer hopes that Texas A&M will build more facilities on the property, such as a ropes course, other canopy towers, suspension bridges and a covered platform in the forest for overnight camping. Naming opportunities abound throughout the center—for bungalows and classrooms and even for forest trails and waterfalls.

Funding student travel is another priority. With the reasonable room-and-board cost at the center, a trip to Costa Rica costs less than many study abroad opportunities, but Houser points out that it is still cost-prohibitive for many students. He hopes that an endowment to the center will provide scholarships for more students to conduct research.

The walls in the cafeteria reflect the center's delightful mash-up of work and pleasure. Each group who visits paints something on the wall to represent their experience along with a list of student names and their field of study. The artwork is colorful and light-hearted and often includes depictions of sloths, lizards, snakes and butterflies.

One mural—created by a Spring Break 2014 class in environmental geoscience—shows a toucan dive-bombing a tall tree and a red-eyed tree frog leaping up the side of an erupting volcano. On one side are the words "Pura Vida," the national slogan of Costa Rica. This translates to "pure life," but it can be used to express thanks, pride, congratulations or to say good-bye or hello. On the other side are two words that in another, closely affiliated culture convey a similar range of emotion and meaning: "Gig 'em." "

-BY JEANNIE RALSTON

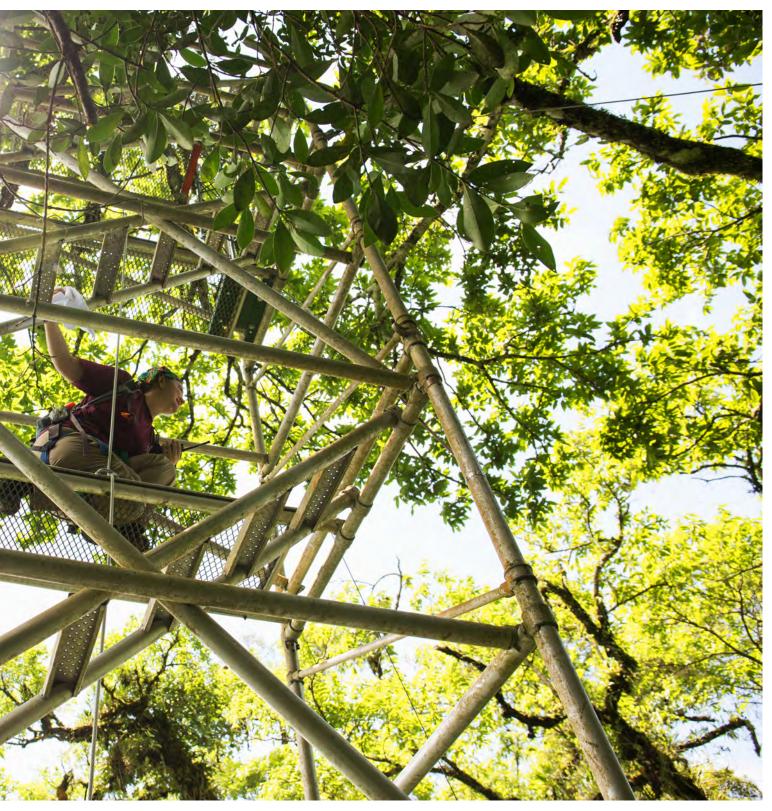
To learn more about the Texas A&M Soltis Center, contact:

Dr. Christopher Houser
Global Faculty Ambassador
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
College of Geosciences
Texas A&M University
(850) 377-8787 (cell)
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To watch a video about the Texas A&M Soltis Center, visit give.am/TAMUSoltisCenter.











Holly Armstrong '13 was at a crossroads during her sophomore year at Texas A&M University. She had been working toward a mechanical engineering degree, but she was beginning to doubt that career path. That's when she was introduced to TRIP, the Trading, Risk & Investments Program at the Mays Business School.

"TRIP absolutely changed my life," Armstrong said. In December 2014, she will graduate with a master's of science in finance and a certificate in trade, risk and investment. More important, she will have earned the skills necessary to succeed in a career about which she is passionate.

At the heart of this inventive program is Professor Detlef Hallermann, director of TRIP and the Reliant Energy Securities and Commodities Trading Center at Mays. For more than a decade, Hallermann has strived toward the development of the



whole student, providing moral support and career coaching along with a world-class education. His former students' professional success is a testament to the quality of the program he has built at Texas A&M.

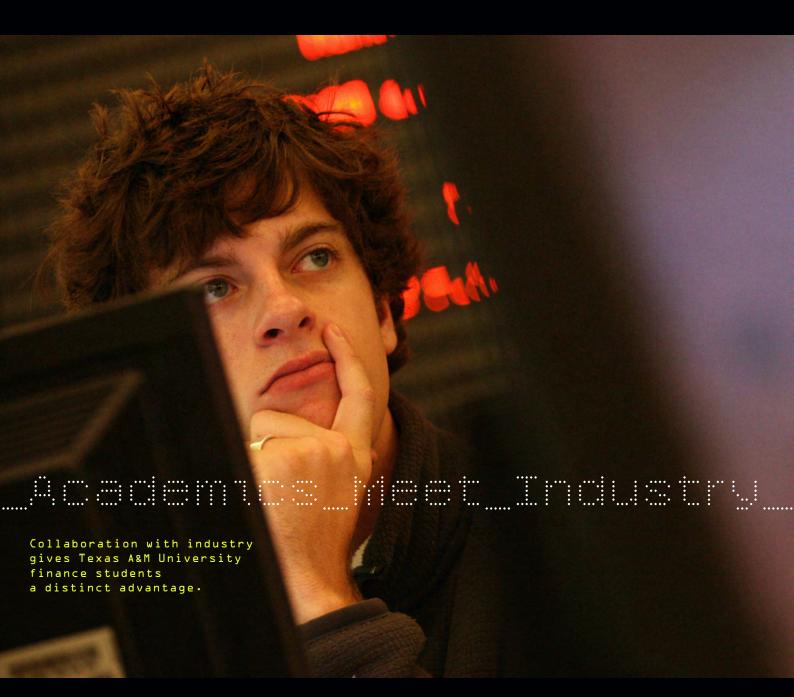
## \_Finance\_Education\_Evolution\_

"TRIP is where industry and academics come together," explained Hallermann. There are three key elements to the pro-

gram: academic coursework, collaboration with faculty and peers in the state-of-the art Reliant Energy Trading Center and interaction with board members.

The academic portion begins with Finance 368, Trade Floor Dynamics. The course includes significant interaction with board members and a week of visits to facilities such as coal power plants, gas storage facilities, drilling rigs and other locations. "Many professionals tra-

ding these commodities have no first-hand experience with them," said Hallermann. "Seeing and handling the commodities transforms the way students mentally interact with the assets. They are no longer just numbers on a screen." These field trips are important to Hallermann, who wants his students to have more than just a theoretical understanding of finance when they graduate.



"Our students are getting much deeper preparation than their peers," said Hallermann.

The final class project involves an in-depth job shadowing experience at a sponsoring company that provides the basis for a written report students present to TRIP board members.

"Presenting to a roomful of potential future employers is intimidating for sophomores and juniors, but it's an essential part of their training," said Hallermann. "Students present to board members several times before they graduate, gaining confidence and presentation skills the only way possible—through experience."

TRIP students also gain first-hand knowledge of trade through the Tanner Fund. Established with a \$250,000 gift from Jamey and Richard Tanner '53, the Tanner Fund puts students in charge of managing a live portfolio. This work takes place in the Reliant Energy Trading Center, "one of the crown jewels of the business school," said Hallermann. This high-tech facility equips students with a genuine investment experience, as they use the same skills and techniques as professional money managers and use real money to trade and invest.

The Reliant Energy Trading Center was created in 2000 through a gift from Mays corporate partner Reliant Energy. "It's the ultimate 'flipped' classroom," said Hallermann. Instead of hearing lectures and completing homework, students work collaboratively with faculty in the space to explore complex concepts.

"It has changed the way we teach," said Hallermann. "In my opinion, this is the next evolution in finance education."

## \_Professional\_Polish\_

In 2 ½ years, TRIP takes raw but highly talented Aggies and polishes them into experienced professionals with the skills needed to be an immediate asset to a company. Through specialized coursework, hands-on experience and close collaboration with industry sponsors, TRIP students are prepared to meet the demands of a complex career.

The proof? The program boasts 100 percent placement for its graduates. On average, these students have a starting salary that is 25 percent higher than other Texas A&M finance majors and typically experience career advancement and income growth faster than their non-TRIP peers.

TRIP doesn't benefit students alone. Cody Moore '91, '93 (MBA) is a senior vice president and head of North American gas and power trading for EDF Trading. One of the original sponsors of the program, EDF has been on the TRIP Industry Advisory Board since 2008.

EDF considered the program a pipeline for talent. "TRIP students have the specialized skill set we need and are able to contribute right away," said Moore. "The same is not always true of students with a general finance degree. The return on investment was evident with our first class of interns. They came in, did the same work that our employees were doing and made a solid contribution."

Moore loves working with Aggie in terns. "They have the technical skills we need, and they also have a great attitude."

## \_Faith\_in\_the\_Future\_

Hallermann first conceived TRIP in 2007 as an opportunity to better serve students and industry partners. After gaining approval from the university, he began recruiting students into the program—just as the economy started to fall apart in 2008.

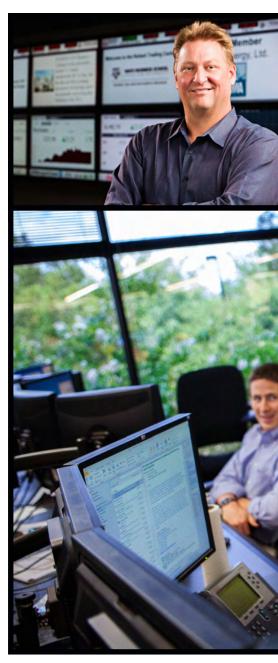
"The market was crashing as we were telling recruits that finance was a great career," recalled Hallermann. "Fortunately, many students believed us."

The first TRIP class had 12 students who worked with a board of eight companies. The current cohort has 28 students working with 37 companies that provide 60 internships per year. BP, Total, Phillips 66, GDF SUEZ Energy and the Texas Teacher's Retirement Fund are just a few of these companies.

Board members may sponsor the program at three levels, the highest of which involves an annual \$25,000 dona-

tion. Board members frequently guest lecture and support curriculum development in the Department of Finance.

Although he is anxious to grow the program, Hallermann insists on maintaining quality both for students and employers. He adds additional sponsors only when talented and motivated students are prepared to work for them. He



is equally determined that every student has a top-rate experience with board companies.

Originally limited to undergraduate finance students, TRIP now includes math and engineering majors. About half of the students complete a BBA in finance while the rest complete their undergraduate and master's degree in finance.

"It's a win-win for TRIP graduates and the board members who hire them," said Hallermann. "When they graduate, TRIP students have not only the knowledge to succeed in the field, but experience equivalent to a first-year analyst. These companies aren't hiring an employee with potential, they are hiring a proven product."

onstrate the commercial viability of their project to potential employers. Many students receive job offers based on their performance during these presentations.

TRIP internships are awarded through a competitive draft process during which companies from diverse areas of the finance industry select top students for their open positions. Draft seas a project manager and with a global energy group as a pricing analyst.

At the next TRIP board meeting, Armstrong will make a final presentation to the board and, if all goes according to plan, will likely receive job offers from board companies. While board companies and TRIP students are under no obligation to make or accept job offers, 90-95 percent of TRIP students do go to work for board companies after graduation. The program acts as a two year job interview, during which students and companies get to know each other and see what each has to offer. This is part of the reason the TRIP placement rate is so strong.

No matter what jobs she's offered, Armstrong knows she's been prepared for workplace success. "TRIP gave me the opportunity to have a little taste of everything," she said. "It showed me what careers are available and helped refine my strengths and interests."

Armstrong couldn't be more thankful for Hallermann, who recruited her into the program and invested fully in her success.

"Dr. Hallermann has a huge heart, and he is always there for his students," said Armstrong. "Throughout the program, he did everything he could for me. He always supports you, but he also pushes you to grow. His goal is to make you comfortable with being uncomfortable."

-BY CHRYSTAL HOUSTON

To learn more about how you can support the Trading, Risk & Investments Program in the Mays Business School, contact:

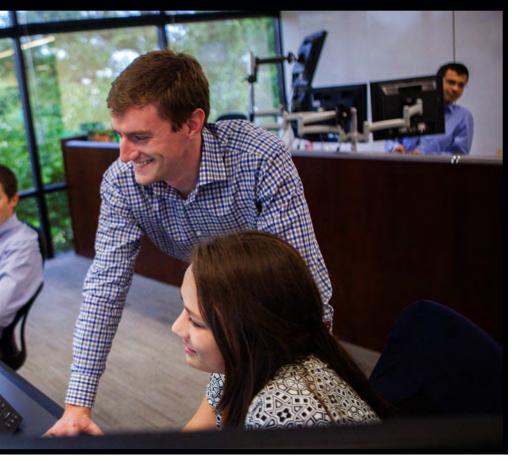
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Professor Detlef Hallermann
 Director, Reliant Energy Securities and Commodities Trading Center
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## Through specialized coursework.

hands-on experience and close collaboration with industry sponsors, TRIP students like James Gant '14 and Sarah Petrey '15 are prepared to meet the demands of a complex career.

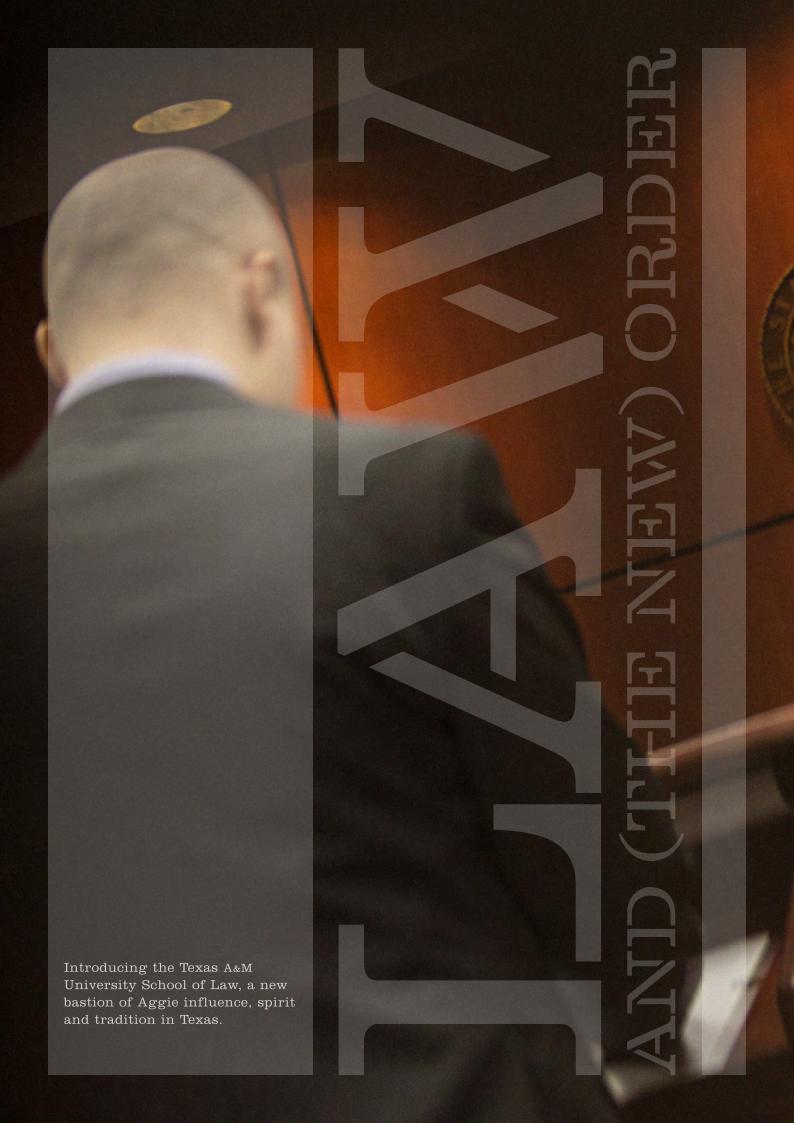


## \_Set\_Apart\_by\_Experience\_

Internships are at the heart of TRIP's success. Each student completes two semester-long internships during which they perform daily responsibilities and are often given responsibility for one or more larger projects. After the internship, they are required to give a final presentation to the TRIP board to dem-

lections are primarily based on the work students have demonstrated during presentations to the board, as well as their networking with board members.

During summer 2014, Armstrong interned with BP in their natural gas liquids marketing and supply team. To explore a range of work settings, she also previously completed internships with energy software company OpenLink



Nothing in Kristina Renfro's background indicated that she would be part of Texas A&M University history. A graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler, she spent years in banking before applying to law school at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Then, last summer, the day before she was to begin her first year, she found out that the law school was being acquired by Texas A&M.

She was suddenly, and happily, an Aggie.
"I'm part of the first class that will spend

all three years at the Texas A&M University School of Law," said Renfro '16. "It's historic. What an exciting time to be an Aggie." Sitting in a classroom in the Fort Worth campus, she is wearing a maroon V-neck T-shirt that says "Aggies A&M Law" and is talking to other students about tailgating parties at football games in College Station.

Her enthusiasm is widely shared. In fact, the chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, John Sharp '72, has long been a proponent of a Texas A&M Law School. "For decades I have dreamed of a law school and in my first few weeks as chancellor, I began meeting with the three private law schools in Texas. This decision will have a profound impact on Texas A&M's future," Sharp said.

Dennis Kelly '73, who has been on the Texas Wesleyan law school faculty since 1995, practically did backflips when he heard he'd be back in the Aggie fold. "This is a dream come true," he said, noting that future Aggies won't have to suffer his fate. He would have gone to law school at Texas A&M, but since the university didn't have one at the time, he ended up at Texas Tech. "They tried to make a Red Raider out of me," he said, "but they did not succeed!"

## A Good Match

Texas Wesleyan School of Law, founded in 1989, attracted Texas A&M because of its strong legal education and the schools' shared principles. "There's a lot of synergy between the values that make Texas A&M special and what has made this law school special," said Dean Andrew Morriss, who began his new position on July 1 after a nationwide search. For instance, Texas Wesleyan's law students were required to perform a minimum of 30 hours of pro bono work before graduating (a requisite



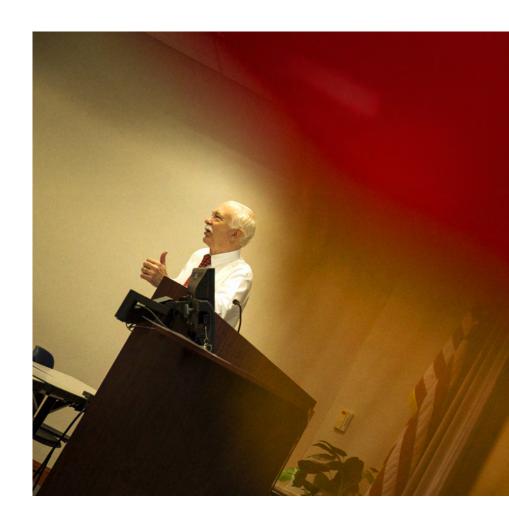
that will live on). "Service was part of the law school DNA already," Morriss continued, "and that matches up beautifully with Texas A&M's framework."

Also important was the school's location in Fort Worth since there is no other top-tier public law school in North Texas. In keeping with the university's land-grant mission, Sharp said, the law school will provide an affordable option in the area. Because Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the top legal and corporate markets in the United States, there are countless possibilities for interactions and jobs with area law firms. "For students to take their first steps as lawyers in the incredibly supportive legal community here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is a great advantage," said Morriss.

The Fort Worth legal community returns the love. "The Tarrant County Bar Association is thrilled to have the law school of a tier-one university in Fort Worth. Especially because that university is Texas A&M," said David Keltner, president-elect of the bar association. "Having a nationally recognized university's law school in Fort Worth will allow access to possibilities we have not previously enjoyed."

The greatness that many believe is within reach depends on the ability of the school to deliver a legal education that is unique, Morriss pointed out. "The challenge today, in an environment that is very competitive for students, is to convincingly demonstrate to prospective students that we offer something they can't get somewhere else—that they will be





## THE VALUES THAT SET THE UNIVERSITY APART—

## LOYALTY, INTEGRITY,

EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP, RESPECT AND SELF-LESS SERVICE—WILL ALSO MAKE TEXAS A&M'S LAW SCHOOL STAND OUT.



LEFT: Andrew Morriss, dean of the Texas A&M
University School of Law, began his new position on
July 1. ABOVE: The school's location near the Fort
Worth Water Gardens affords students with countless
possibilities for jobs with area law firms. BELOW: The
law school will attract high-quality students and
faculty like Professor of Law Paul George by fostering
alliances with leading departments in College Station.

better lawyers because they went to law school here." Morriss and other Texas A&M officials believe that the core values that set the university apart as a whole—loyalty, integrity, excellence, leadership, respect and selfless service—will also make its law school stand out.

In his efforts, Morriss will draw on the many strengths and resources of Texas A&M University—financial, intellectual and cultural. On its own, the Texas A&M brand has already had a significant impact. Applications this past year—after the Texas A&M acquisi-

tion—were up 27 percent from the previous year, even though law school applications are falling on a national level. The priority is recruiting top students because the median LSAT scores and GPAs of the entering class are key factors in national rankings. Morriss recently worked at two law schools—the University of Alabama and the University of Illinois—that made dramatic jumps in national rankings. He has written, studied and consulted on rankings for years. For this reason, university administrators believe they made a solid choice in hiring Morriss. "We feel we have a new dean who will move our national rankings up very quickly," said Sharp.

## The Texas A&M Difference

Among the many ways the law school will attract high-quality students and faculty is by fostering relationships with leading departments in College Station.

For instance, with the nation's topranked school for petroleum engineering, Texas A&M can bolster the oil and gas legal specialty. "We have opportunities in intellectual property law because Texas A&M is one of the greatest research universities in the country," said Morriss. "There are also opportunities in national security issues through The Bush School of Government and Public Service. These are opportunities that weren't available when this was Texas Wesleyan."

Even in its first year, the law school's new affiliation has borne fruit. Gabriel Eckstein, who has been on the faculty since 2010, is widely known as an expert on water law, specifically on the rights to aguifers that lie beneath international political boundaries. He has long wanted to chart the location and characteristics of the aquifers on the Texas-Mexico border so that they can be better managed. This past year, he found the perfect collaborator through Texas A&M's Water Management and Hydrologic Science Program-Dr. Rosario Sanchez Flores. She brings knowledge of hydrological mapping, the Mexican water authority and the Spanish language to the project. "This absolutely would not have happened without the Texas A&M connection," said Eckstein.

Eckstein is hopeful that with more resources, he and colleagues can develop innovative research projects and attend more conferences that will boost the Texas A&M name even more. He also knows of many opportunities for students to pursue international international international international conferences.

# IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS COMMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY, BUILDING A BETTER LAW SCHOOL REQUIRES PRIVATE FUNDING.

ships—including in China, France, Israel and Jordan—and hopes that the Texas A&M connection will facilitate these prospects.

In addition to the funds committed by the university, building a better law school will require private funding. The law school already received a \$1 million gift to create the Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair. "The legal profession has been good to me. I wanted to give back, and this dean's chair was the logical choice," said Buzbee '90, a Texas A&M University System regent who earned his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. The funds can be used at the discretion of the dean to advance the standing of the school. "We intend to compete," Buzbee said. "When the best law schools in Texas and the U.S. are discussed, we will be in that discussion."

Buzbee's gift comes with a challenge. "What I'm hoping to do is encourage other Aggies to give money to the law school," he said, "because we are going to need a healthy endowment for all the things we want to do." As an incentive for others to follow in Buzbee's footsteps, the university has initiated a 1-to-1 matching gift program in which contributions to the law school of \$25,000 or more will be matched until the school reaches its goal of raising \$20 million.

Among Dean Morriss' priorities are scholarships to attract the highest-caliber students and endowed chairs to expand and strengthen the faculty. The university must also soon decide whether to keep the law school in its current home or to look for another building in downtown Fort Worth. "We are bursting at the seams," he said.

With the law program so new to the Texas A&M system, there are numerous naming opportunities for donors, including the opportunity to name the whole school.

### All Hail the Network

Undoubtedly, another important selling point for attracting the best students is the Aggie network. Law students and recent graduates acknowledge that their job prospects have improved thanks to the Texas A&M connection. "There are a lot of Aggies in the world," said law student Justin Comeau '16, "and a lot of Aggies want to hire Aggies."

Hans Wiedel '17, a Syracuse University graduate and a former captain in the U.S. Army, decided to attend Texas A&M's law school because he was impressed by the willingness of Aggies to reach out to other Aggies—or even potential Aggies. "I told one lieutenant colonel I was considering Texas A&M law school after leaving the army," said Wiedel. "Within a week, a dozen Aggies

had encouraged me. Now that the law school is part of Texas A&M, the Aggie network can be vertically integrated. Aggies can have their own lawyers, too."

Equally important in the effort to set the law school apart is the intangible aspect that Texas A&M offers, a force



ABOVE: Kristina Renfro'16 is excited to be part of the first class that will spend all three years at the Texas A&M University School of Law. RIGHT: Hans Wiedel'17, a Syracuse University graduate, decided to attend Texas A&M's law school because he was impressed by the willingness of Aggies to reach out to other Aggies. BELOW: Applications were up 27 percent from the previous year after the acquisition.







unmatched by other major universities—spirit. "The whole 12<sup>th</sup> Man tradition—that willingness to go the extra distance to really succeed, that attitude is what makes someone a great lawyer," said Morriss, who is well-acquainted with the Aggie spirit even though he's a New Jersey native who received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Morriss married an Aggie—Dr. Carol Akers '87—whose family has deep Texas A&M roots. This connection makes his new post all the sweeter.

In his office—painted maroon, naturally—he keeps a treasured photo of his wife's grandfather, class of 1912, in his Aggie uniform. He also displays his sabre. Pulling it from its sheath, Morriss grinned and, with a flourish, thrust it in front of him. A fitting pose for the leader of a storied university's law school as it forges ahead.

-BY JEANNIE RALSTON

To learn how you can support faculty and students in the Texas A&M School of Law, contact:

Myke Holt Senior Director of Development Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (817) 212-4061 mholt@txamfoundation.com

To support the Texas A&M School of Law with an online contribution, visit give.am/TAMULawExcellence.

rascible, loud, provocative, loving, devoted—these are some of the words those who knew, respected and cherished Clifford A. Taylor Jr. '49 have used to describe him.

"If he liked you, he'd say, 'you're alright' — that was sort of his trademark," laughed former Texas A&M Foundation Trustee Jim Creel '69. He was still in college when he first met Taylor in the late 1960s, marking the beginning of a long and close friendship.

"[Cliff] was a man of high integrity and a wonderful person to have as a friend," Creel added. "He was definitely a very unique character, and everyone that has ever encountered him would probably agree with some or all of that."

In disposition, Taylor was a man of many colors; but underlying every shade was a deep, unshakeable loyalty that will forever leave a bold impression on all of the lives he touched.

"His personality was bigger than life and just so robust," said Taylor's wife Frances, reflecting on the 40 years they shared during their marriage, until Taylor's death in 2013.

It was this very strength of character that put Taylor at the helm of a trust fund, which, at the time of its inception in 1985, represented the largest gift ever received by the Texas A&M Foundation.

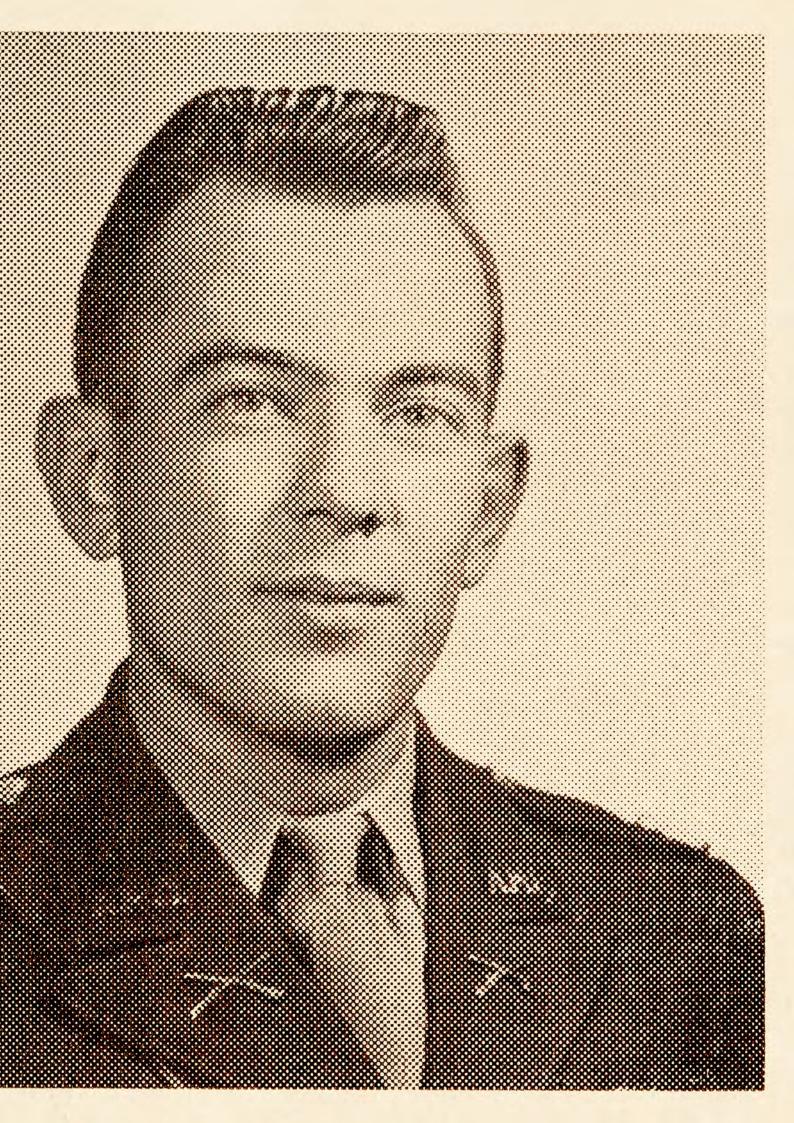
### THE BIRTH OF A TRUST

After graduating with degrees in business and accounting, Taylor briefly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before returning to Texas A&M to pursue an MBA. Upon completing his education, Taylor returned to Fort Worth to start his career in accounting, eventually finding his way to the Southland Royalty Co., an independent oil and gas company owned by W.C. and Ella McFadden. Southland Royalty served as Taylor's professional foundation for 15 years, and his loyalty to the company remained steady even after he retired in 1980 to start his own CPA practice.

Ella McFadden recognized her employee's devotion. In her will, she made provisions to establish the Ella C. McFadden Charitable Trust and named Taylor one of its three trustees. The trust existed for a period of 20 years — from McFadden's death in 1965 until 1985 — and when it dissolved, assets from the trust were distributed among 35 charities and institutions across Texas. Taylor had a special interest in seeing the trust benefit his alma mater, and thus, Texas A&M University was high on the list.



Taylor, Clifford A. "Trooper"—Age 21, Class '49, "C" Inf. Lieut., Distinguished Student, DMS, Captain Rifle Team, Scholarship > Honor Society, Bus. Society, Fort Worth Club. [FROM THE 1949 TEXAS A&M\*AGGIELAND\* YEARBOOK]



Below: As trustee of the Ella C. McFadden Charitable Trust, Clifford Taylor Jr. '49 met annually with President's Endowed Scholars at Texas A&M.

"Cliff cared deeply for the things he loved, and he always wanted the best for the things he cared about," said Creel, who grew well-acquainted with Taylor through their work together in the Fort Worth A&M Club. Taylor served as treasurer of the local club for more than 25 years before serving as its president. "Fort Worth was his home, and he was very active in the philanthropic community there, but there was no questioning his love for Texas A&M."

Devoted not just to the university but to honoring McFadden's legacy, Taylor made it his responsibility to help others and saw to it that funds from the trust would do just that.

"Cliff was a perfectionist, and he was intimidating to a lot of people," said Frances Taylor. "His motto was 'nearly right is wrong' and especially in his younger years, it always had to be his way and no other way. But he was fair, and he always gave everybody a chance—

things just had to be right. He had so much integrity."

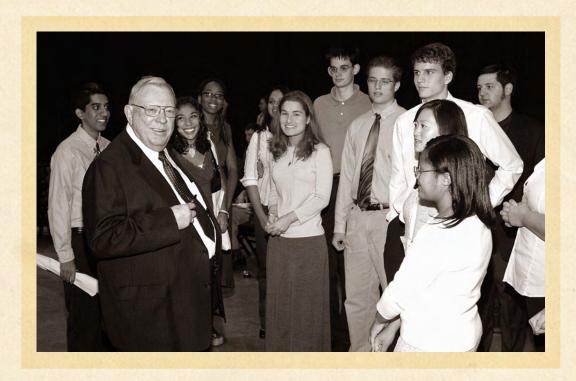
By establishing endowments to support scholarships and university programs, Taylor used the McFadden Trust to cultivate renewable resources for the university. His careful planning has benefited the institution's long-term growth, and in turn, will support the bright minds that grace Texas A&M's campus.

"He wanted bright students to get good scholarships and to him, Texas A&M was one of the best places they could get their education," Creel said. "He wanted them to love Texas A&M, to be good people and to be good Aggies."

## MAJOR MOTIVATOR

It only took one visit to the Texas A&M campus for sophomore John D'Angelo '17 to catch the Aggie spirit.

"Texas A&M felt like a much better fit for me than any of the other colleges I visited," re-



called D'Angelo. For the aspiring engineer, the decision to attend Texas A&M would have been so simple had it not been for the eight-hour drive to his home in New Orleans.

The Ella C. McFadden President's Endowed Scholarships (PES) give high-achieving students the opportunity to pursue a Texas A&M education. In addition to covering enrollment costs, these merit-based scholarships also allow out-of-state recipients like D'Angelo to earn a non-resident tuition waiver for the duration of the scholarship.

"It's been nice not having to worry as much about how I'm going to pay for tuition and instead be able to really focus on and enjoy my classes," he said. Last fall, D'Angelo was selected as one of 20 recipients of the McFadden PES; this fall, he will be entering his second year as a mechanical engineering major. He believes his education will earn him a job where he can take advantage of his passion and knack for math and physics.

"CLIFF PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS."

-ED DAVIS '67

Also important, D'Angelo explained, is the academic motivation his scholarship provides. "It's definitely been a major motivator for keeping me on my toes with classes and trying to keep my GPA as high as possible." To remain eligible for funding, PES recipients like D'Angelo must maintain a 3.5 GPA.

"Scholarships like these are more important now than ever," D'Angelo said, "because there is a large number of people who are considering pursuing an undergraduate degree but can't afford to. It's easy to ask yourself, 'Is this really worth my time or should I just work at the Burger King down the street?'"

#### ONLY THE BEST FOR A&M

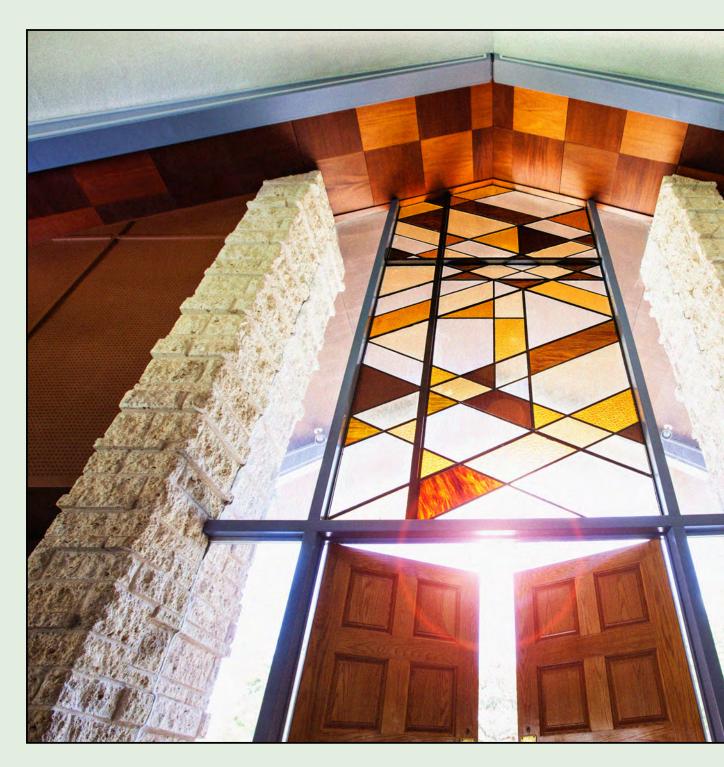
In addition to establishing the McFadden President's Endowed Scholarship, the trust has funded more than 500 McFadden Honors Scholarships and over 400 McFadden Opportunity Awards. The trust's endowments also support various Texas A&M departments and programs including the Corps of Cadets, athletics, the College of Liberal Arts, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, The Association of Former Students, the Private Enterprise Research Center, the Sterling C. Evans Library and the Texas A&M Foundation.

"Cliff Taylor may not have been a 'traditional' donor to Texas A&M, but that doesn't diminish his impact," said Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67. "In overseeing the McFadden Trust and choosing this university as one of its beneficiaries, Cliff played a pivotal role in expanding opportunities for our students through scholarships and on-campus programs."

-BY DINI SUSANTO '15

To learn more about supporting the education of current and future Aggies with a President's Endowed Scholarship, contact:

Marcy Ullmann '86 Manager of Scholarship Programs Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-6383 mullmann@txamfoundation.com



THE LATE RICHARD D. "DIK" VROOMAN '52, PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGNED ALL FAITHS CHAPEL TO INCORPORATE NATURE WITH CLEAN, SIMPLE LINES AND A THOUGHTFUL USE OF METAL, STONE, GLASS AND WOOD.



# FAITH FACELIFT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S

ALL FAITHS CHAPEL GETS A MAKEOVER

All Faiths Chapel serves to build another type of spirit at Texas A&M University—that of religious faith. With support from former students and a gift from Cynthia and Douglas

Kennedy '69 of Saint Louis, Mo., the chapel received its first substantial facelift since opening its doors in 1957.

Closed in May for renovation, the chapel reopened in July.

Texas A&M's growth, never imagined in the 1950s, took its toll on the chapel. As enrollment climbed from a few thousand students to more than 50,000, the chapel, generally quiet and intimate, could grow noisy and crowded. Since the 1980s, All Faiths Chapel has been in almost constant use by faith-based student groups that today comprise almost 10 percent of the more than 800 recognized student organizations. Prolonged wear diminished the interior's look and functionality.

"We have wonderful academic and student facilities, but facilities for spiritual development were somewhat lacking," said Neil Peltier, assistant director at Uni -



versity Center & Special Events, which oversees the chapel.

The Kennedys provided two gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation for All Faiths Chapel—a cash gift for the reno-

vation plus a planned gift to endow support for chapel activities and upgrades. Their gifts expanded the project initially funded by The Association of Former Students. The Association's support covered cosmetic repairs—repainting the interior, replacing seating and carpeting, and refinishing the woodwork. The Kennedys' gifts expanded the renovation to include replacing furnishings in the library and meditation rooms. A final task, upgrading the restrooms, will happen over the holiday break in December.

"To us, All Faiths Chapel stands as a reminder of our personal walk with the Lord and provides a place for spiritual growth, reflection and rest," said Doug Kennedy. "It is a secure haven from the rigorous pressures of an academic and character building time for students and the staff of Texas A&M University."

## KEEPING FAITH IN THE "OTHER EDUCATION"

Cyndy and Doug Kennedy met during Doug's junior year but didn't marry in the chapel. Their 45-year marriage began shortly after he graduated from Texas A&M in 1969 with a degree in business management and administration. While Cyndy raised their children and worked various supportive jobs, Doug embarked on a successful career path: first as an Air Force F-111a pilot in Southeast Asia and then in both national and international business ventures. He retired in 2013 as a senior vice president from Equifax Workforce Solutions and recently formed Kennedy Advisors LLC.

Today the couple works with youth and international missions and invests in technology startups. They cherish their close-knit family that includes their son Carter and daughter-in-law Stephanie; two grandchildren, Franklin and Ford; daughter Stacy; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Their deep personal faith and love for Texas A&M led them to include All Faiths Chapel in their giving to the university. Besides the chapel renovation, their planned gift will fund endowments

CYNDY AND DOUG KENNEDY '69 GAVE TWO GIFTS
TO THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION FOR ALL FAITHS
CHAPEL—A CASH GIFT FOR THE RENOVATION
PLUS A PLANNED GIFT TO ENDOW UPGRADES.

for students in the Mays Business School, the Corps of Cadets (including Squadron 2 and the Ross Volunteers) and Fish Camp along with contributions to the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation.

"As a proud member of the Corps of Cadets, my faith was developing in those early years," said Doug, who was a commanding officer in Squadron 2 and a platoon sergeant in the Ross Volunteers. "I went to All Faiths Chapel to find a place to get away. I experienced a closer walk with God that became foundational throughout my marriage, raising a family and how I approached my career."

The Kennedys also honored Cyndy's father, the late Col. Lohn Franklin Yoder



Sr., by placing a church pew belonging to Yoder in the chapel's foyer. The inscription on a nearby plaque is from Psalms 27:4: "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

## A TIMELESS DESIGN FOR A SACRED SPACE

The Association of Former Students paid for the chapel's original construction in the early 1950s. Its design was the result of a competition among Aggie architects. The winner, the late Richard D. "Dik" Vrooman '52, professor of architecture, incorporated nature with clean, simple lines and a thoughtful use of metal, stone, glass and wood. He designed the structure to fit among the existing trees on the selected site.

The U-shaped building covers about 9,000 square feet and houses a 175-seat sanctuary, walled garden, two meditation rooms, a small library, a foyer or reading area and a small office.

Vrooman wanted the sanctuary to feel like a shelter in a garden. Exposed steel beams painted blue support a sloping copper roof. Native fossilated limestone and glass walls combine with extensive wood accents to create an open space bathed in natural light.

## Reflecting On "I Dos"

In the course of its nearly 60-year history, All Faiths Chapel has seen its fair share of weddings. We asked couples to share memories of their weddings at the chapel and have included a sampling of their stories here.

## Robert '58 and the late JoAnn '92 Walker

MARRIED JAN. 24, 1958

"We chose to get married at All Faiths Chapel mainly because I was attending Texas A&M, and it was the simplest place," said Bob Walker '58, recently retired senior executive for development at Texas A&M, in describing his wedding to JoAnn. "The greatest memory was having so many of my



classmates attend. It was just great having everything so close."

Walker crammed a lot into his wedding day. He took a final exam that morning followed by the rehearsal, a luncheon and the ceremony.

## Mary Jo and the late Don Powell '56

MARRIED DEC. 27, 1978

"Don and I wanted to get married during the Christmas break, but ran into problems because the whole campus was closed down," said Mary Jo Powell, former associate director of university relations. Don served for many years as the director of business services.



The late Col. Logan Weston, then coordinator of religious life, gave Don the keys to the chapel. Powell and his three sons took care of locking and unlocking the chapel for the rehearsal and the wedding.



"Dik didn't want the design to overwhelm the chapel's purpose," said David Woodcock, professor emeritus in architecture and a former colleague of Vrooman's. "He wanted All Faiths Chapel to be a calm, peaceful oasis where students could go and contemplate their faith."

The chapel is generally open 24 hours a day for students' private use. It also is available for student group meetings, religious film screenings, small weddings, funerals and memorial services or other religious rites/ceremonies, as well as periodic holiday and music programs.

"I went there as a sophomore for meetings but would go back because it was peaceful," said Kaitlyn Bingham' 15, THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS' SUP-PORT COVERED COSMETIC REPAIRS, WHILE THE KENNEDYS' GIFTS REPLACED FURNISHINGS IN THE LIBRARY AND MEDITATION ROOMS (BELOW).

an English major from McKinney. "A prayer binder is kept in the chapel and you can read prayers and notes from people who have been there before."

For a time at the chapel, weddings were popular. The first wedding happened on May 31, 1957, three weeks after the chapel opened. At its peak, from the late 1960s through the late 1970s, the chapel averaged 300 weddings per year. But over the next three-plus decades, its aging interior—along with the establishment of more local wedding

venues—diminished its wedding use to about a dozen annually.

One thing not diminished is a memory built on love through faith. The late Don Powell '56 and his wife Mary Jo, former Texas A&M staff employees, married in All Faiths Chapel on Dec. 27, 1978. Mary Jo said they shared a special ritual during their 32-year marriage.

"On our 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, we went back to stand outside the chapel, look in and remember," she said. A

-BY LEANNE SOUTH '94

To support All Faiths Chapel, contact:

Cindy Munson '99 Director of Development Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161 cmunson@txamfoundation.com

To watch a video about the All Faiths Chapel, visit give.am/AllFaithsChapel.



## Stephanie '85 and Chris '83 Jergens

MARRIED APRIL 27, 1985

Chris Jergens finished Air Force survival training three days before their wedding and in his rush to travel to College Station, forgot his uniform. Southwest Airlines flew it to Dallas, where his parents carried it with them to the wedding. Because Stephanie was Jewish and he was Epis -

J.C.

copalian, the "all faiths" aspect of the chapel was important to them.

The Jergens' wedding took place under scaffolding in the chapel because a new air conditioning system was being installed.

## Nancy '90 and Mark '88 Browning

MARRIED DEC. 17, 1989

The Brownings chose All Faiths Chapel because it fit the needs of a young couple paying for their own wedding. Nancy and Mark came from different denominations, and the chapel provided a neutral site for the ceremony. Both families were in town for Nancy's graduation, so they married

the day after.

"The wedding went smoothly, but the reception was real short," said Mark. "That Sunday, a Blue Norther blew into Texas. We sped everything up so everyone could get home."

#### David Coleman '04 and Krissy Vogel

MARRIED MARCH 8, 2008

Coleman and Vogel had problems scheduling their Catholic wedding locally because it would occur during Lent.

"We were surprised at how easy it was to book the chapel," said Vogel. "It's a simple chapel, but we really liked it. We had an evening



ceremony. David and
I wrote our own vows,
and the priest had us
read them at the altar
facing our guests. A
harpist played the
music. It was beautiful."

# **Opportunity**

# Answering Problems with Prototypes

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO REAL-WORLD HEALTH CARE ISSUES

It wasn't until my senior year in 1986 at Texas A&M University that I fell in love with engineering. From my freshman through junior years I did well in class, but I hadn't experienced that one special course that truly inspired me—until my senior design class in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

This capstone course for seniors enables students to work closely with external sponsors to design a device or system that can potentially offer a solution to a real-world need. For a fledgling engineer and soon-to-be-graduate, my senior design project was both engaging and challenging, and left an indelible impression.

My team was tasked with developing a PC-based speech-recognition system capable of recognizing 10 words from four different speakers. Bear in mind, this was the mid-80s when speech-to-text technology was still in its early days. I'm proud to say we succeeded, and I was thrilled to be part of a project so ahead of its time. (Now—nearly 30 years later—smartphones recognize spoken words with amazing accuracy.)

The experience taught me about the drama that energizes the field of engineering. We had to meet strict deadlines. Our designs either worked or they didn't, and how they were engineered definitely affected the outcome. Unlike my other courses, the hands-on experience of building a product that had potential commercial value inspired me. Senior design also taught me that engineering was a

team effort, and that teams with *esprit de corps* could accomplish great things. I learned that engineering was more than a job; it was meaningful and fun. These lessons helped me become a better engineer and eventually a business leader. Senior design helped me realize that I could lead product development teams to impact people's lives—maybe even change the world.

### Returning to My Roots

After graduating, I spent the majority of my career at National Instruments, dreaming up new software and hardware products that would increase engineers' and scientists' productivity. During my tenure from 1990 to 2013, National Instruments grew into a \$1.2 billion company, and I owe much of my personal success to my Texas A&M engineering education.

I believe in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and its senior design experience. That's why after 25 years of industry work, I made the switch to academia and joined the biomedical engineering program as a professor of practice. As part of my new role, I'll be succeeding Professor Mike McShane as lead instructor for our senior design program. For me, this is an

Biomedical engineering students undergo a hands-on capstone course during their senior year. Working closely with external companies and sponsors, they have the opportunity to design devices and systems with real-world medical applications.





incredible opportunity to give back by sharing my business, management and engineering experience with biomedical engineering students.

## The Senior Design Experience

During their final year in the program, senior design projects dominate our students' lives-students become immersed in the device-design process, project management and team dynamics. They also must meet stringent Food and Drug Administration guidelines for design control. Our students receive faculty guidance but are responsible for all aspects of their projects, from engineering to communications, including presenting their work to their respective faculty mentors and sponsors. Throughout two semesters, each student team spends a combined 1,500 hours on its project.

A particular strength of the senior design program is its close connection with sponsors. For many students, interacting with a sponsor is their first taste of working with an engineer from an environment they are likely to encounter upon graduating. This is a pivotal aspect of bringing the real world into the classroom. Projects come from a variety of sponsors who range from Fortune 500 companies to startups. These include various medical device companies, local clinicians, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and organiza-

tions such as Engineering World Health, the Texas Heart Institute and NASA contractor Wyle Laboratories. Other sponsors include National Instruments, Integra LifeSciences and PROFUSA.

Each sponsor assigns a project with requirements, milestones and deliverables. Working with their sponsors, students have developed a number of innovative projects, including wearable wireless sensors for tracking compliance and fit of back braces; a low-cost device for testing diabetic neuropathy; surgical instruments such as a new retractor for heart valve replacement; and an "organon-a-chip" that simulates responses of organs to drug therapies, reducing testing in animals and humans.

## A Win-Win Partnership

The program enables sponsors to tap into students' knowledge and creativity to explore innovative ideas and prototypes that are early in the development cycle or that may not be funded. Students today have grown up in a technology-laden world, and they want to use technology to solve problems.

As an added benefit, sponsors receive access to these talented students at a fraction of the cost associated with hiring full-time employees. Sponsors can fund a senior design team for a \$5,000 donation to the department. In many organizations, the total cost for a new hire is more than \$120,000.

Professor John Hanks '86 from Texas A&M University's Department of Biomedical Engineering is the lead instructor for its senior design program.

Through the senior design program, a sponsor gets four to six engineering students for nine months. During this time, sponsors have the opportunity to conduct an "extended interview" of sorts with these soon-to-be graduates.

Our sponsors use senior design projects to evaluate a student's work ethic as well as his or her communication, team and leadership skills. Our students sign non-disclosure agreements so that sponsors may request assignment of all intellectual property rights prior to the start of a project. In some standout cases, our students have applied for a joint provisional patent and even formed a company co-owned with their team sponsors.

#### Join Us

Senior design projects are a great starting point for corporations, startups, individuals and other external sponsors who have an idea and want to develop a prototype solution. I encourage you to support the biomedical engineering senior design program and to help provide our students with an inspiring experience. I know that this opportunity can be the foundation for a successful future.

-BY JOHN HANKS '86

PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE AND COURSE
INSTRUCTOR FOR SENIOR DESIGN
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL
ENGINEERING
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

To support the senior design program in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, contact:

Reagan Chessher '97 Director of Development Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (979) 862-1936 rchessher@txamfoundation.com

To contribute online, visit give.am/EngineeringSeniorDesign.

Watch a video about the impact of senior design projects at give.am/BiomedSolutions.

# @Foundation

One way the Texas A&M Foundation ensures that contributions are directed according to donor wishes is through proper financial controls and accounting procedures, which are reviewed in an annual audit. The Foundation has consistently received unqualified audit opinions during the course of its 61-year history.



## **Annual Audits Ensure Foundation Financial Integrity**

Since its inception in 1953, the Texas A&M Foundation has been committed to directing financial contributions according to donor wishes by ensuring that appropriate safeguards and accounting procedures are in place. To further maintain financial integrity, the Foundation's financial statements are reviewed annually by an audit.

The annual audit takes approximately two months to complete and entails validating the Foundation's financial statements. Auditors randomly verify activity and balances to ensure that the Foundation's financial statements are accurately presented under generally accepted accounting procedures. The Foundation's audits consistently receive "unqualified" opinions, meaning that the auditor finds the financial statements appropriately presented.

Much of the credit for a history of more than 60 years of unqualified audit opinions is owed to the Foundation's finance staff and Doyle Thompson, senior vice president and chief financial officer, who has been with the Foundation since 1985.

"The financial integrity of the Foundation is very important," said Thompson. "Having a clean annual audit is one way to assure our donors and Texas A&M that our records are accurately kept and that there are financial controls in place."

The accounting firm BKD LLP has audited the Foundation since 2007.

#### Gifts from Within

Much of Spirit magazine is dedicated to recognizing the philanthropy of former students, corporations and friends of Texas A&M University and the impact their gifts are making on students, programs and facilities. We're pleased to introduce a new series titled "Gifts from Within," which recognizes the charitable efforts of Texas A&M Foundation employees and their personal commitment to giving back.



Guy Sheppard '76

Director of Development Guy Sheppard '76 is as equally passionate about raising funds for the College of Veteri nary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences as he is about supporting it with personal gifts.

A multiple-impact planned gift that he

established in 2011 with his wife Valerie '76 will provide scholarships for students in the veterinary medicine doctoral program and for members of the Corps of Cadets and animal science majors who are enrolled in courses required for admission to the program.

Part of their gift, which will be funded through retirement assets, will also support the operation and activities of the 12th Man Foundation, The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University Libraries, and the Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society.

"Valerie and I feel that giving back to Texas A&M is the least we can do," Sheppard said. "Texas A&M allowed two farm kids like us to gain the knowledge and confidence to go out into the world and make something of ourselves. The entities we chose to support meant a great deal to us during our days at Texas A&M and helped shape us into what we have become."

The couple hopes their gift will help future students have the same meaningful experiences at Texas A&M that they enjoyed. While Valerie is an animal science graduate, Guy graduated in 1978 with a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine and practiced 28 years in San Angelo before joining the Foundation in 2008.

"I consider it a great honor to represent Texas A&M and to make a case for support of this outstanding institution," Sheppard said. "I very much enjoy helping fellow Aggies and other supporters find ways to make a meaningful impact on the future through their gifts to Texas A&M."

The Sheppards also supported the Class of '78 Endowed Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine, which provides scholarships to undergraduates enrolled in pre-veterinary disciplines.





Leslie Currie



Hugh McElroy '71



Richard Kline



Linzy Woolf '01



Julie Gelderd '06



Jerri Schooley



Cindy Munson '99



Jack Falks '85



Dunae Crenwelge '15



Monika Blackwell

## **Foundation Staff Changes**

Leslie Currie joins the Foundation as director of development for the Texas A&M Health Science Center Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy—located on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus. She previously worked in the College of Pharmacy as the director of institutional advancement.

Hugh McElroy '71 joins the Foundation as director of development for the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing and the School of Public Health. He was previously the director of institutional advancement for the School of Public Health.

Richard Kline begins as the Foundation's senior director of development for Texas A&M University at Galveston. His previous positions include five years as director of development at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and more than

20 years in various positions within the semiconductor industry.

Linzy Woolf 'or joins the Foundation as assistant director of development for the Mays Business School. She previously served 10 years as the associate head coach for the Texas A&M University Equestrian Team.

Julie Gelderd 'o6 joins the Foundation as assistant director of development for the departments of electrical and computer engineering and computer science and engineering. Previously, she worked as an inside sales representative at C.C. Creations.

Jerri Schooley begins as the Foundation's assistant vice president for major gifts for the Texas A&M Health Science Center. She was previously the associate vice president for development at the University of Texas at Arlington.

The Foundation's regional development team welcomes Cindy Mun-

son '99 as regional director of major gifts for the central United States. She has worked since 2007 as director of development for the Division of Student Affairs.

After two years with the Foundation as director of development for the College of Geosciences, Jack Falks '85 assumes the position of director of development for the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering.

Dunae Crenwelge '15, a communication graduate, joins the Foundation as marketing communications specialist and managing editor of *Spirit* magazine.

Monika Blackwell joins the *Spirit* staff as assistant editor. She began working at the Foundation in 2012.

Texas A&M Biology Professor Deborah Bell-Pedersen's research into circadian rhythms brings her into collaboration with postdoctoral research associates like Renato De Paula.

## <u>Postscript</u>

was a senior in college when I carried out my first research project in cell biology, and I found it incredibly exciting to be designing experiments that had important implications in animal and human health.

Nowadays, I'm a biology professor who studies circadian rhythms (the equivalent of roughly a day, or 24 hours) in bread mold. OK, I know what you're thinking—"just another example of my tax dollars at waste on some esoteric research project with absolutely no societal benefit." But let me assure you that there is more to my research than meets the eye.

Do you ever wonder why medications to treat high cholesterol, such as statins, are only useful if taken before you go to sleep? Or why you get indigestion if you eat late at night?

Nearly all organisms have an internal 24-hour timing mechanism, known as the circadian clock, that drives daily rhythms in behavior and physiology. For example, our heart rate and blood pressure increase around 4 a.m. to prepare us for waking up each morning. In day-active humans, food metabolizing enzymes produced by our liver and fat cells peak in activity during daytime hours. Therefore, if you eat at night, the ability to break down that food is significantly reduced.

Our capacity for learning and memory, sleep onset and our athletic performance also is clock-controlled.



## Molding Answers for Cancer

So when it comes to timing, you can forget about what the clock on the wall says, because it's the circadian clock that rules.

Which brings me to *Neurospora* crassa, a mold first discovered contaminating bread in French bakeries and the basis of my research in the Department of Biology. Because the *Neurospora* clock functions similarly to the human clock, it is a model organism for determining what genes and proteins our clock regulates. We can use *Neurospora* to do preliminary experiments that would be expensive and/or illegal to do on humans in order to fight and prevent human diseases.

In my lab, we are using *Neurospora* to find new ways to treat cancer. In humans, defects in the circadian clock caused by genetic mutation or by living out of synchrony with the clock (for example, doing shift work) can lead to an increased risk for certain types of cancer. We have found that in *Neurospora*, the clock regulates the activity of mitogen-activated protein kinases, or MAP kinases. These enzymes play an important role in controlling cell division and stress-related responses. Therefore, drugs that inhibit MAP kinases also inhibit cell prolif-

eration, including the uncontrolled replication of cancer cells. Unfortunately, when you inhibit MAP kinases in normal cells, patients become quite ill. Thus, finding a way to lower the drug dose while still inhibiting the proliferation of cancer cells would open a new avenue to treating patients.

Interestingly, in many human cancer cells, the MAP kinases and other proteins either lose their rhythmicity or show altered rhythms. One possibility is to give cancer patients lower doses of the MAP kinase inhibitor drugs at times of the day when kinases are at reduced levels in normal cells but still at peak levels in cancer cells. This type of therapy is expected to lead to decreased toxicity of the drugs and to increased effectiveness against cancerous cells.

Go figure that the icky old orange mold colonizing neglected bakery goods is proving to be a testing ground for new anti-cancer strategies. And it's even edible! Next time you're in Aggieland, drop by my lab for a sample.

— BY DEBORAH BELL-PEDERSEN

PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEPARTMENT

HEAD FOR OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY





## A LESSON IN HUMILITY

A wise person once said, "The horse, with beauty unsurpassed, strength immeasurable and grace unlike any other, still remains humble enough to carry a man upon his back."

During the past fiscal year, Texas A&M University took a significant step in its commitment to this noble beast and its interactions with humans when it opened the Thomas G. Hildebrand DVM '56 Equine Complex with \$32 million in private donations. True to the "A" in A&M, the facility is part of a larger Equine Initiative that involves the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Through this initiative, Texas A&M is building a program to educate future equine leaders and to generate research and veterinary medical care that will improve the industry as well as the welfare of horses.

An anonymous \$25 million gift that made this new complex a reality is one of many giving highlights that enabled the Texas A&M Foundation to achieve a record \$149.5 million in contributions during the past year.

Two major additions to the university structure this past fiscal year are broadening our fundraising scope and have resulted in the hiring of several new Foundation employees committed to these areas.



The Thomas G. Hildebrand DVM '56 Equine Complex is a state-of-the-art facility which provides a new, on-campus home for equine teaching, research, outreach and athletic programming.

The Texas A&M University School of Law became the country's newest law school after operating as Texas Wesleyan University School of Law since 1993. In a boost to the Fort Worth school, Texas A&M Regent Anthony Buzbee '90 and his wife Zoe '91 committed \$1 million to endow a dean's chair, which helped to recruit Dean Andrew Morriss from the University of Alabama.

Our Health Science Center, recently part of the Texas A&M University System, is once again working under the banner of the university. In response, the Foundation has hired four fundraising professionals to focus on opportunities that include new facilities in Houston and Dallas, the Institute of Biosciences and Technology, as well as schools of public health, medicine, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy.

The College of Medicine received one of this year's most heartfelt gifts an endowed undergraduate scholarship in honor of Ethan Hallmark, a 13-yearold who battled cancer for four years and passed away in September. The scholarship's first recipient, April Kavanagh '16, is a third-year medical student and a survivor of acute lymphoblastic leukemia who hopes to enter the field of pediatric oncology.

These changes and our ever-growing body of former students make our job at the Foundation even more relevant to Texas A&M and its future.

We remain deeply grateful for the continued generosity of our former students, corporate partners and other friends. With its grace and fortitude, the noble horse is emblematic of your commitment to this unique American institution. And still you remain humble enough to carry so many by sharing your precious resources with Texas A&M.

VAN H. TAYLOR '71

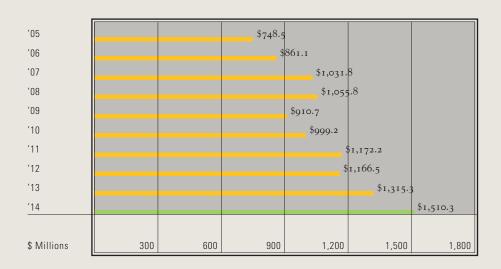
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



#### GIFT REPORT

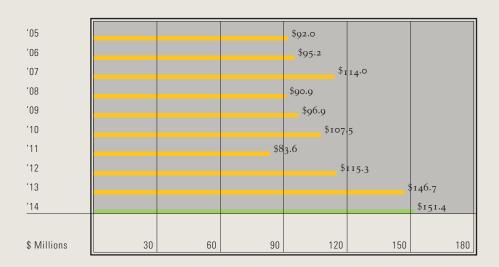
**Foundation's Change in Net Assets**—The Foundation's net assets increased 14.8 percent during the 2014 fiscal year.

Annual totals for fiscal years 2005 through 2014



**Gifts to Texas A&M**—Donors gave \$151.4 million to the Texas A&M Foundation and Texas A&M University during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Following generally accepted accounting principles, the totals include pledges and irrevocable planned gifts. For every dollar raised during the past five years, the Foundation has spent an average of 13.4 cents.

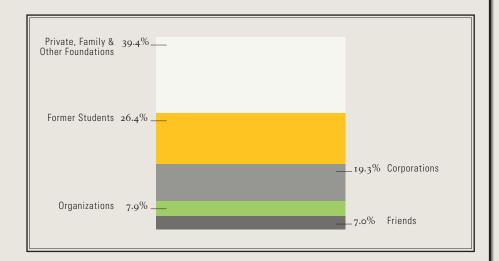
Annual totals for fiscal years 2005 through 2014



#### WHO IS GIVING AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE

Where the \$151.4 Million Came From—Contributions from former students, friends, and private and family foundations make up 72.8 percent of gifts to the Foundation, while gifts from corporations and other organizations make up 27.2 percent of the total

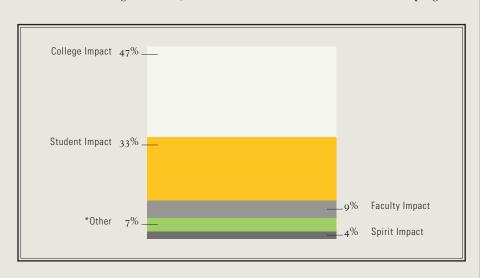
Sources of gifts received in fiscal year 2014



How the \$151.4 Million Was Directed — The Foundation links donations to four designations we call "impact areas." Student impact represents academic scholarships and fellowships to undergraduate and graduate students. Faculty impact refers to gifts that fund faculty chairs, professorships and fellowships. College-impact gifts help a college or department through discretionary or building funds. Spirit-impact gifts cultivate student organizations, traditions and other outside-the-classroom programs.

Where fiscal year 2014 gifts were directed

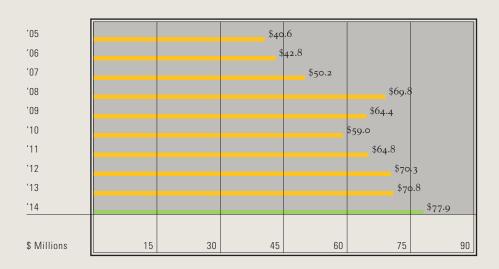
<sup>\*</sup>Includes gifts that pass to non-university accounts, such as The Texas A&M University System and The Association of Former Students matching funds, as well as Foundation gifts in holding and class gift funds, for which donors have not yet identified the gift impact area.



#### BENEFITS TO THE UNIVERSITY

Foundation Funds Made Available to Texas A&M—Each year, the Foundation makes millions of dollars available to Texas A&M for students, faculty, facilities and programs according to donors' wishes. In fiscal year 2014, these funds totaled \$77.9 million. These funds consist of non-endowed gifts—funds made available to disburse immediately rather than invested by the Foundation—and income from endowments.

Annual totals for fiscal years 2005 through 2014



**Increasing Student Burden**—The percentage of Texas A&M's budget that is covered by state funds and tuition has held steady throughout the decades at 57 to 59 percent. As state funds decrease, tuition and fees increase to make up the difference. Students now shoulder more than one-third of Texas A&M's budget, a huge jump from the late 1990s, when tuition comprised only about one-fourth of the budget. Private gifts relieve student financial burden and supplement Texas A&M's educational budget.

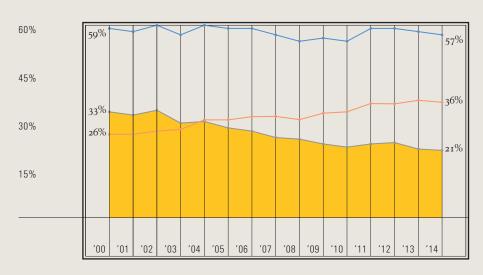
Annual totals for fiscal years 2000 through 2014

State Funding

Tuition and Fees

Combined State Funding, Tuition and Fees

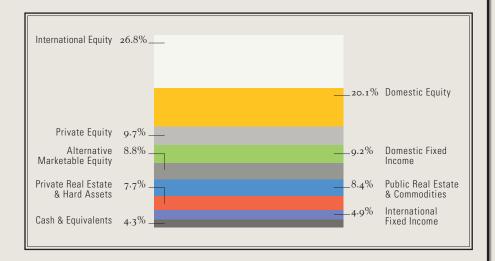
\*Figures shown as a percentage of TAMU budget



#### ENDOWMENT FUNDS

**Long-Term Investment Pool Asset Allocation**—By investing assets, the Foundation preserves the purchasing power of gifts while providing steady earnings for Texas A&M. The Foundation's long-term investment pool, which has a total value of \$1.36 billion, is composed mostly of endowments, but also includes other non-endowed funds invested for the long term.

As of June 30, 2014



**New Scholarship and Faculty Endowments**—The Foundation prides itself on enhancing the academic experience at Texas A&M University for both students and faculty. Donors who create endowments for scholarships, chairs, professorships and fellowships are leaving a legacy that enhances Texas A&M's core mission of providing the highest-quality undergraduate and graduate programs.

Total scholarship and faculty endowments created during fiscal year 2014

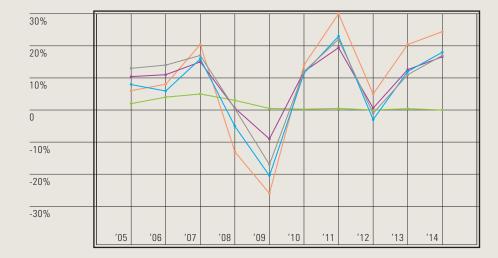
	TOTAL	327
2	Faculty Fellowships	
2	Professorships	
6	Chairs	
46	Other Endowments	
271	Scholarships & Graduate Fellowships	

#### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

**Investment Performance**—The Texas A&M Foundation has a solid record of investing. Over the years, we have consistently outperformed most peer organizations, ranking in the top or high second investment quartile. For the one-, three-, five- and seven-year periods, the long-term investment pool experienced annualized total returns of 16.9 percent, 8.6 percent, 11.8 percent and 5.3 percent respectively through June 30, 2014.

Annual Return

Annual returns for fiscal years 2005 through 2014



■ Foundation Long-Term Investments

S&P 500

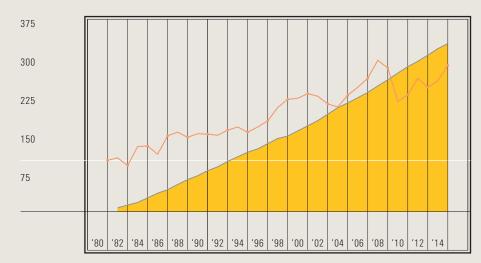
■ T-Bills

■ Blended Custom Benchmark

■ 75/25 Benchmark

**Endowment Performance**—The Texas A&M Foundation invests endowments using asset allocation to maximize growth while safeguarding capital during tough economic times. The chart below illustrates the market value of a \$100,000 endowed scholarship created in 1980 and its cumulative value of student stipends. This single endowment would have paid out more than \$326,500 by 2014.





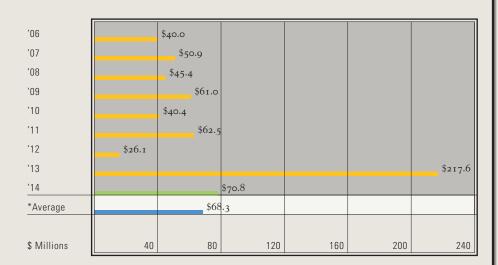
Initial \$100,000 Gift >

Market Value of EndowmentCumulative Stipends

## PLANNED GIVING

**Planned Gift Expectancies Over Time**—The Foundation's Office of Gift Planning helps donors establish planned gifts that will aid Texas A&M University and its students in the future. For fiscal year 2014, the Foundation documented planned gifts valued at \$70.8 million, ranging from \$2,500 to \$9 million in size. The chart below illustrates gift expectancies documented by the Foundation in the last nine years and represents a total of \$614.9 million.

Documented gift expectancies for fiscal years 2006 through 2014



\*Gift Expectancy annual average for a nine-year period

## **Planned Giving by the Numbers**

121	Number of planned gifts made in 2014
100	
139	Number of new Heritage members in 2014
ФГОГ ООО	
\$585,000	Average planned gift size in 2014*
\$16.4 Million	
φ10.4 Million	Value of realized gifts received in 2014 as a result of estate intentions
\$146 Million	Value of realized gifts received since 2005
Ψ110 ΙΜΠΙΟΠ	value of realized gifts received since 2003

<sup>\*</sup>Excludes contingent gifts

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	JUNE 30, 2014	JUNE 30, 2013
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 41,156,320	\$ 43,337,594
Accrued revenue and other receivables	1,939,452	1,332,989
Contributions receivable, net of allowance	86,658,144	85,365,518
Investments	1,562,318,865	1,331,214,200
Remainder interests	5,672,896	4,893,062
Assets held in trust by others	7,870,067	6,997,643
Interests in life insurance policies	2,433,945	2,303,464
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		
and amortization: \$2,259,161 (2014); \$2,172,287 (2013)	746,077	838,356
Headquarters building, net of accumulated depreciation		
and amortization: \$4,292,756 (2014); \$4,078,092 (2013)	9,129,073	9,343,738
Art collection and collectibles	19,377,370	19,377,370
Other assets	51,386	51,951
Total assets	\$1,737,353,595	\$1,505,055,885
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accrued liabilities	\$ 1,820,595	\$ 2,093,787
Annuities and trusts payable	51,757,043	49,142,207
Amounts held for other charitable organizations	173,011,964	138,016,180
Other liabilities	497,824	512,599
Total liabilities	\$ 227,087,426	\$ 189,764,773
Net assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 64,630,411	\$ 50,692,269
Temporarily restricted	496,201,841	366,958,867
Permanently restricted	949,433,917	897,639,976
Total net assets	\$1,510,266,169	\$1,315,291,112
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,737,353,595	\$1,505,055,885

These financial statements are drawn from the Texas A&M Foundation audit conducted by the independent accounting firm BKD LLP. The Foundation will supply copies of the complete audit report upon request.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN ASSETS

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, with summarized financial information for the year ended June 30, 2013

#### Revenues

Contributions
Other support
Investment income
Rental income
Net realized and unrealized
gains on investments
and other assets
Revenue from oil and
gas interests
Other revenue
Net assets released from
restrictions

## **Expenses**

Total revenues

Payments and transfers to Texas A&M University– scholarships, fellowships, grants and other payments Management and general Fundraising

Total expenses

Change in net assets

Net assets, beginning

Net assets, ending

		f	2014				
TOTAL	TOTAL	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED		TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	τ
\$ 117,585,017	\$ 87,082,110	40,319,459	\$	45,658,751	\$	1,103,900	\$
3,289,776	3,704,260	1,602,677	,	1,869,072	Ċ	232,511	
19,877,211	18,655,312	258,750		17,525,951		870,611	
70,909	61,128	_		60,728		400	
85,673,378	167,573,073	9,066,479		145,160,931		13,345,663	
863,960	1,604,061	546,576		663,935		393,550	
482,399	356,430	_		_		356,430	
	_	_		(81,696,394)		81,696,394	_
\$ 227,842,650	\$ 279,036,374	51,793,941	\$	129,242,974	\$	97,999,459	\$
\$ 61,875,568	\$ 65,897,466	_	\$	_	\$	65,897,466	\$
4,429,420	4,508,741	_		_		4,508,741	
12,777,400	13,655,110	_		_		13,655,110	
\$ 79,082,388	\$ 84,061,317	_	\$	_	\$	84,061,317	\$
148,760,262	194,975,057	51,793,941		129,242,974		13,938,142	
1,166,530,850	1,315,291,112	897,639,976		366,958,867		50,692,269	
\$1,315,291,112	\$ 1,510,266,169	949,433,917	\$	496,201,841	\$	64,630,411	\$

#### A&M LEGACY SOCIETY

The A&M Legacy Society recognizes Texas A&M's most generous supporters: individuals, corporations and organizations whose cumulative, current giving through Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Foundation, The Association of Former Students, 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation and George Bush Presidential Library Foundation totals \$100,000 or more, and individuals who plan to make gifts through their estates.

With donors' approval, the Texas A&M Foundation prominently displays members' names in Legacy Hall of the Jon L. Hagler Center. This honor roll recognizes A&M Legacy Society members as of June 30, 2014.

#### \$5,000,000 +

#### Δ

Annenberg Foundation Leslie L. Appelt '41 H. Grady Ash Jr. '58 AT&T AT&T Foundation Inc.

#### В

Baumberger Endowment
BP Group
BP Foundation Inc.
Robert W. Briggs Jr. '55
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey R. Bright '43
Frances & Jack Brown '46
Virginia L. & Cuthbert C. Burton '42

#### C.

The Effie & Wofford Cain Foundation ChevronTexaco Corp. ConocoPhillips Ashley R. '88 & David L. Coolidge '87 Kay & Jerry Cox '72

#### D

Becky '76 & Monty L. Davis '77 Dow Chemical Co. Dow Chemical Foundation DuPont

## Ε

George J. Eppright '26 Mr. & Mrs. Sterling C. Evans '21 Exxon Mobil Corp. ExxonMobil Foundation Mobil Foundation

#### F

Ford Motor Company Ford Motor Company Fund

#### G

Rhonda & Frosty Gilliam '80 Susanne M. & Melbern G. Glasscock '59

#### н

Mr. & Mrs. Jon L. Hagler '58
Halliburton
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### Gift Processing

Ann Lovett '81 Manager of Gift Processing alovett@txamfoundation.com (979) 845-8167 The Regents' Scholars Program at Texas A&M University celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Since it was created by former Texas A&M President Robert Gates, the program has provided scholarships to more than 7,000 first-generation college students whose families' combined income is below \$40,000.

The program, which awards recipients up to \$5,000 per year for up to four years, provides academic success programs such as leadership opportunities, learning communities and service opportunities. Regents' scholars have approximately a 90 percent retention rate.

These scholarships were originally funded solely through the university's operating budget, but individuals, corporations and organizations may now also fund Regents' Scholarships with an endowed gift of \$100,000 that can be



Anthony Rice '16, an agricultural communications and journalism major, says that his university-funded Regents' Scholarship has allowed him to focus on grades and extracurricular activities rather than worry about tuition.

named in honor of a person, class or organization. Donors may fund a scholar-ship through pledge payments or by a planned gift such as life insurance, individual retirement account or other giving methods. They may also apply matching gifts from their employers.

This list recognizes donors who have established an endowed Regents' Scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation.

Mr. & Mrs. Marcus B. Bentley Endowed Regents' Scholarship; Funded by the Carol and Melvin M. Bentley Sr. '54 Family

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Maxine and Cecil Weil '45 Regents' Scholars Award; Funded by Jane and Stuart Weil and Family



### Gardens & Greenway Update

Envisioned in 2012 by Interim President Mark Hussey, the Texas A&M University Gardens & Greenway project is becoming a reality as it enters a design and construction phase this fall. The project will transform a 46-acre area of West Campus to include an outdoor classroom, event venue, demonstration gardens and nature trails.

Substantial financial commitments from generous donors will enable construction of the project's first element—the Teaching Gardens Complex . This three-acre educational center will serve as an outdoor laboratory to teach K–12 students, Texas A&M students and others about the natural environment, gardening and agriculture.

To support the Gardens & Greenway project, contact Senior Director of Development Steve Blomstedt '83 at sblomstedt@txamfoundation.com or (979) 845-9582.

To learn more about the Gardens & Greenway project, visit give.am/TAMUGardensVideo.

To contribute online, visit give.am/SupportTAMUGardens.

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#### Requests & Comments: Fall 2014

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