THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION MAGAZINE | SPRING 2013

SPIRIT

HUMANITIES IN HARMONY

Nathan Tamborello '13 sings praise for new liberal arts building

Research Vanguard

TEXAS A&M-WEIZMANN PROJECTS SEEK SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES

On a High Note

SINGING CADETS MOLD MASTERS OF MUSIC AND MEN OF CHARACTER

Philanthropy's Finest

INTRODUCING OUR GENEROUS 2013 STERLING C. EVANS MEDALISTS

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION

Liberal Arts Offer Versatility in an Unstable Marketplace

In an age when higher education is increasingly about speeding through a curriculum streamlined to prepare students for a job, there is an assumption that the liberal arts have no practical application, so students should not indulge in them.

The national emphasis on education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics has placed labs ahead of libraries, but this does not mean that a liberal arts education lacks real-world utility.

At Texas A&M University, the College of Liberal Arts has a combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment of more than 7,000. It houses 12 departments offering 47 degrees in the fields of literature, history, communication, economics, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts. Equally important, students from all undergraduate disciplines at Texas A&M take courses in the College of Liberal Arts as part of the university's core curriculum.

This gives Aggies a solid understanding of the social, political, cultural and economic forces at play in our interdependent world with emphasis on effective written and spoken communication, critical thinking and creative problem-solving—skills that ensure our graduates are prepared to lead.

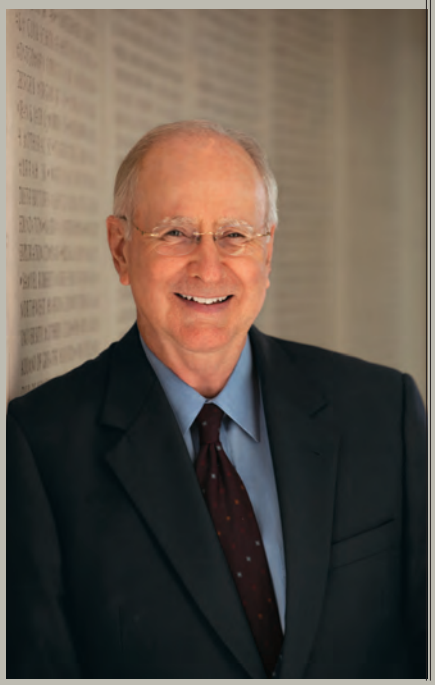
Humanities coursework improved my ability to read and write and provided a familiarity with the language of human nature, which has proven particularly helpful in fundraising. Training in rhetoric, composition, literary criticism and critical theory sharpened my analytical skills. This has been vital to me as a manager and investor.

I would argue that the versatility of a liberal arts degree is actually an advantage in an unstable marketplace. In fact, experts tell us that industry-specific knowledge is typically outdated quickly—sometimes even before a student graduates.

Thankfully, support for liberal arts at Texas A&M is at an all-time high. Construction of the new Arts and Humanities Building underscores the university's commitment to fulfilling our *Vision 2020* strategic plan, which includes building the "letters, arts and sciences core." You can read more about the new building on Page 18.

To supplement this initiative, the Foundation is raising $25 million to support programs in the College of Liberal Arts. As part of the project, you may direct an endowed gift toward scholarships, faculty or program support in the college. In return, your name will become a permanent part of this beautiful new facility on campus, and your gift will create a legacy in the liberal arts.

A humanities education broadens the academic persona of Texas A&M, where for so long the "A" and the "M" have defined most Aggies. As these programs continue to expand, so will the stature of our university as a comprehensive research institution that produces quality graduates in all disciplines who are ready to serve the greater good.



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

SPIRIT

An international research collaborative between Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, the Weizmann Institute of Science and Aggie philanthropists may lead to cleaner air and fuel, healthier humans and faster computers. » *p.22*

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The Singing Cadets are the most-performing college chorus in the United States with more than 70 musical presentations each year across Texas and the nation. » *p.28*

The new Arts and Humanities Building was designed with collaboration in mind. The space allows for an interdisciplinary partnership between the Department of English and the Department of Performance Studies. » *p.18*

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EDITOR
Sondra White '87

MANAGING EDITOR
Megan Kasperbauer

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Geer Design, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Gabriel Chmielewski '06 (p. 7, bottom left; 11, bottom right; 12; 42; 44-45, staff)
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Jill Heinerth (p. 8, bottom left)
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PRINTING
Chas. P. Young Printing

COVER PHOTO
Texas A&M senior Nathan Tamborello '13 combined his passions for music, singing, film, English and painting in a project he presented at the April grand opening of the Arts and Humanities Building. Watch a video about Nathan at give.am/AggieArtist.

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Texas A&M University is taking measures to provide access to a high-quality engineering education for more students with its plans to grow engineering enrollment to 25,000 students by 2025. » *p.6*

Using a bequest and individual retirement account, Texas A&M University chemists Janet Bluemel and John A. Gladysz made provisions in their estate plan to create two future faculty chairs, a gift to benefit the Department of Chemistry and an endowment to ensure the safekeeping of three of their cats, including Reba, at the Stevenson Center on campus.

The Legacy

Couple Supports Fellow Chemistry Faculty

Texas A&M University chemists Janet Bluemel and John A. Gladysz, global innovators in inorganic and organometallic chemistry, are determined to impact the worldwide landscape of their profession. Their passion has resulted in individual accomplishments, but also in the largest estate gift in the history of the Department of Chemistry.

The couple made provisions in their estate plan to establish two future faculty chairs, one in each of their names, as well as an unrestricted gift to benefit the department. They also guaranteed a happy home for their three cats through a gift to Texas A&M's Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center. They chose to fund these gifts, created through the Texas A&M Foundation, using a bequest and individual retirement account (IRA) beneficiary designations.

"In this time of stratospheric medical costs and other expenses that often hit in post-retirement years, this giving method seems optimal," Gladysz said. "We also structured our will to protect the real dollar value from being eroded by inflation before the Foundation reaps the proceeds in the future."

Distributions from the endowments will be used to support the teaching, research, service and professional development activities of the faculty chair holders. In both instances, preference will be given to organic and inorganic chemists. Gladysz' namesake chair will be awarded to scholars engaged in world-class fundamental research, while Bluemel's will be restricted to worthy internal candidates.

"Often faculty chairs are awarded to external superstars as part of the recruitment process," Bluemel said. "While that was the case with both of us, this default procedure overlooks the home-grown talent we have here at Texas A&M. We specifically requested that our gift be used to recognize the exceptional faculty who are already here. Let's reward them so they are not picked off by competing institutions."

"WE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT OUR GIFT BE USED TO RECOGNIZE THE EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY WHO ARE ALREADY HERE. LET'S REWARD THEM SO THEY ARE NOT PICKED OFF BY COMPETING INSTITUTIONS."—DR. JANET BLUEMEL

Before joining the Texas A&M faculty in 2007, Gladysz and Bluemel both spent decades as chemistry professors at a number of international institutions. These appointments kept them geographically separated, "so we never got around to starting a family." In the absence of descendants or other close next-generation relatives, they chose to help guarantee the future of the institutions that played key roles in their professional and personal growth.

As Texas A&M's inaugural holder of the Dow Chair in Chemical Invention, Gladysz is well aware of the immediate and long-term value of endowed faculty support.

"Endowed chairs are an excellent means of seeding transformative research in areas that are overlooked by extramural funding sources," he said. "Our dream is that some day, Texas A&M can truly realize all of the goals embodied in *Vision 2020*. Private charitable gifts are essential to achieve this in a sustainable way."

—BY SHANA HUTCHINS '93

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 g-pittsford@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310.

Letters

Share Your Comments

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

SONDRA WHITE '87
Editor

MEGAN KASPERBAUER
Managing Editor

Fall 2012 Spirit *magazine*

Chase Hames '13 "Flips For Tips" near Kyle Field before the Florida game on Sept. 8, 2012, as part of a TAMU Gymnastics Club fundraiser.

FOR THE LOVE OF GYMNASTICS

I enjoyed the article on the Texas A&M Judo Club in the fall 2012 issue of *Spirit*, and I would like to suggest that you consider a similar article on the Texas A&M Gymnastics Club. These men and women train year-round up to 20 hours a week in the Read Building on campus without the benefit of athletic scholarships. Despite these circumstances, most of their academic accolades are inspiring.

I happen to know more about the male gymnasts because my son, Chase Hames '13, is one of them.

These men won the national club competition during the past two years, which is significant because there are no NCAA men's gymnastics teams in the state, despite the fact that Texas trains and produces a large number of NCAA scholarship recipients. Few universities have a men's NCAA team, but there are more than 120 National Intercollegiate Gymnastics Club Teams. The men's Aggie team leads them all and the ladies are quite impressive, as well.

These athletes are funded largely by their "Flips for Tips" program, which you may have observed on your way from the parking lot into a football game. They compete for the pure love of the sport. You can find information about the A&M club at gymnasticsclub.tamu.edu.

Thank you for your efforts with *Spirit* magazine, and thank you for your time.

—CONNIE HAMES '83
Dallas, Texas

Editor's Note: You can donate to the club at give.am/SupportTAMUGymnastics.

CADET DOES HIS DONOR PROUD

Recently I was invited to have dinner with my good friends Sandy and Wesley Dukes at the request of their son, Chance Dukes '14. I first met Chance when he was a 10-year-old helping his father clean moss from oak trees at my residence. We knew Chance had something to announce, but not even his parents knew what it was. His best buddy from Corps of Cadets Company E-2, two high school friends and his girlfriend were also in attendance. After he gave the blessing, Wesley handed me a letter to read. It was the official acceptance of membership in the Ross Volunteer Company. I was so proud of Chance that I could hardly read the letter. It's moments like this that make the donor of two General Rudder Corps Scholarships—including the one that is assisting Chance—so proud to help our future leaders.

—JOE REUSS '49
Cuero, Texas

UNRULY SPIRIT ONLINE

I have to tell you that, while I appreciate receiving information from the Texas A&M Foundation, your online magazine is more difficult to navigate and read than any other that I receive from various organizations. I have a 17-inch monitor and spend too much time chasing around with the mouse, enlarging type and then shrinking it down so that I don't miss something else on a spread, all while trying to get around a pop-up that gets in the way.

I spend several hours a day at the computer, so I am reasonably proficient with a mouse. However, with *Spirit* magazine, I usually just give up before finishing the issue.

I have a background in media as an editor, publisher and later head of a company with millions of readers. I know that your designers are trying to appeal to a wide range of ages, but I would respectfully submit that the goal of design should be first and foremost to impart ideas and information. Too many online publications seem to subscribe to the idea that cool functionality is the goal. It isn't.

— TOM CURL '70
Brookfield, Wis.

Editor's Note: We appreciate your feedback, Tom. The platform we use does offer features that make it worthwhile, such as an online archive, mobility, social media sharing, live links, videos, downloadable PDFs and analytics. However, we will continue to explore the best options for Spirit *magazine in print and online, and will solicit more feedback in an upcoming reader survey.*

GATORADE FUELS FLORIDA

The President's Letter in the fall 2012 *Spirit* magazine was superb, and I will make you feel even better with this information: The reason that the University of Florida is No. 1 in the Southeastern Conference is Gatorade. Yes, it was invented on that campus and the university gets money from every drop sold. Now get your Aggie professors to invent a new bathtub because I am too old to get in and out of the ones in use now!

— WALTER PAT KERR '53
San Jose, Calif.

BLOCK T ENLIGHTENMENT

This is to add to the controversy about the Block T formation discussed in the Letters of *Spirit*, fall 2012 edition. Not knowing details of the original premise, the attached photo may enlighten or confuse the issue. I was in this formation as a freshman in a night game on Kyle Field with the entire Corps of Cadets in November 1950. The picture that was discussed in the article, apparently taken in the spring of 1983, must not have been at a football game. Nevertheless, may this tradition continue to show Aggie unity.

— DICK RANDALL '54
Houston, Texas

CASE CLOSED ON THE ANNEX PHOTO

Editor's Note: In the summer 2010 issue of Spirit *magazine, we published an article by J. Decker White '51, a graduate student who also taught chemistry at the A&M Annex between 1948 and 1950. With the article was this photograph of two freshmen and a Texas A&M employee, prompting many readers to ask about the identity of the two cadets. Nearly two years later, thanks to the diligence of David Wolf '52, the mystery is solved!*

Sherlock Holmes always gets his man! I proudly state that not only did we identify the two fish in the photograph, but we got an additional "bump" to go with it. Here's how it played out:

George Weddington of Waco, one of the 20 fish in our barracks at the Annex in 1948, left Texas A&M after a few years for a career in naval aviation. He served for more than 20 years in the U.S. Navy, retired as a lieutenant commander, and now lives in Warrington, N.C. George is the young man on the left in the photo.

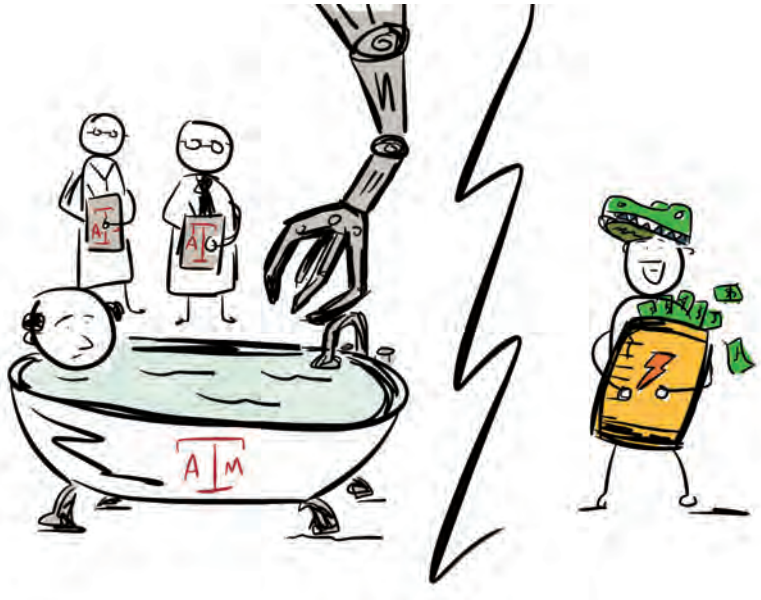
The other Waco youngster (right), who also lived among the 20 fish in our Annex barracks, is Aubrey Warren. Aubrey was friends with George in high school.

Now, here's the "bump": George's great-great-grandfather (hope I have the right generation here) was Harvey Mitchell, known as the "Father of Texas A&M University," who donated nearly 2,500 acres of Brazos County land to the State of Texas so it could build the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

I'm at peace now, knowing that more than 64 years since the photo was taken, my memory served me correctly. Glad I was able to help; thanks for your help, too.

— DAVID WOLF '52
Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas

Fish George Weddington '48 (left) and Aubrey Warren '48, both of Waco, were two of 20 freshmen who lived in the barracks at the A&M Annex in Bryan, 12 miles from the main campus.



A&M LEGACY SOCIETY NOTES

The A&M Legacy Society would like to recognize these generous donors, whose names were omitted from or listed incorrectly in the Foundation's 2012 annual report:

$1,000,000–$4,999,999
Linda W. & Delbert A. Whitaker '64

$250,000–$499,999
Karen Weedon '82 &
Leslie G. Liere '84

$100,000–$249,999
Jimmy A. Goettle '63
Norma & T. W. Mohle Jr. '52

OnCampus

Members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets participate in the Squadron 6 and Company S-2 reactivation ceremony in January.

Growth Goal

Texas A&M officials announced plans in January for Texas A&M University to grow engineering enrollment to 25,000 students by 2025.

The 25 by 25 Initiative was developed in response to a critical need to increase the engineering workforce of the state and the nation.

"Last year, more than 10,000 students applied for only 1,600 undergraduate slots available in the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M," said John Sharp, Texas A&M University System chancellor. "We are taking measures to provide access to a high-quality engineering education for more students to keep our nation competitive in the global landscape."

Texas A&M University officials announced plans to grow engineering enrollment to 25,000 students by 2025, which would make it the single largest engineering program in the U.S.

The Dwight Look College of Engineering is one of the largest and highly ranked engineering programs in the nation, with more than 11,000 engineering students enrolled. Dr. M. Katherine Banks, vice chancellor and dean of engineering, said the initiative is not just about increasing enrollment, but also about providing better instruction and opportunities.

To advance this goal, the college has identified construction of the Engineering Education Complex—a facility that will provide classrooms, laboratories and study spaces—its top fundraising priority. To learn more about giving opportunities, contact Andy Acker, Texas A&M Foundation senior director of development, at (800) 392-3310 or a-acker@tamu.edu.

Renewed Tradition

Responding to continued growth, the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets reactivated two of its traditional units, Squadron 6 and Company S-2, in January. Several former cadets turned out for the event, including former Squadron 6 members Rick Perry '72, governor of Texas, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp '72 and former Regent John White '70.

The decision to reactivate Squadron 6, an Air Force unit, and Company S-2, a Navy/Marine unit, was predicated by the Corps' fall semester membership of 2,303, the highest level in 15 years.

"Throughout the history of the Corps, various units have stood down for differing reasons—gone, but never forgotten. Their former members are eager to see their beloved units restored," said Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez Jr. '79, commandant of the Corps. "This reactivation means a new beginning for an old tradition for future and former members of the Corps."

Expanding Into Law & Health

Texas A&M University is one step closer to obtaining a law school and a health-related institution following action in January by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Texas A&M received approval to offer a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree with a major in law at Texas Wesleyan University beginning in fall 2014. In June 2012, Texas A&M and Texas Wesleyan agreed to a letter of intent through which the Fort Worth institution's law school would become known as Texas A&M University School of Law at Texas Wesleyan University.

In addition, Texas A&M received approval to offer six doctoral programs—including medicine, dental surgery, pharmacy and public health—currently under the Texas A&M Health Science Center, a member of The Texas A&M University System, as a next step in the proposed organizational realignment of the institution into the university.

Both the law school and health science center realignments are expected to be considered by Texas A&M's regional accrediting body—the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools—over the summer.

Texas A&M received approval in January to offer six doctoral programs currently under the Texas A&M Health Science Center as a next step in the proposed realignment of the institution into the university.

Several of Texas A&M University's traditions are depicted in a new exhibit that was installed in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) in February. Memory Cloud, a permanent exhibit in the 12th Man Hall of the MSC, is described as "an ethereal constellation of light points in a sculptural cloud form." The installation, composed of LED nodes, uses images from archived footage of traditions such as the Corp of Cadets, the Aggie Band and past Texas A&M graduations. Mixed with the archived images is a real-time feed of everyday student life, portraying the moving silhouettes of students in the MSC. To see the Memory Cloud, visit give.am/MSCMemoryCloud.

Stellar Scholars

The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) welcomed its inaugural class of scholars in January. With the title of TIAS Faculty Fellows, these eminent teachers and researchers include a Nobel Laureate, members of the National Academies of Engineering and of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the Royal Society in England.

University President R. Bowen Loftin '71 said each fellow will collaborate with "rising star" faculty members at Texas A&M on research projects and activities that engage the institution's graduate and undergraduate students.

"This first cohort of fellows is representative of the type of world-renowned scholars we sought to attract to the university through the creation of TIAS, which I consider to play an essential role in our *Vision 2020* goal," Loftin said.

To learn more about the inaugural fellows and their research, visit give.am/TIASFacultyFellows. If you're interested in establishing a TIAS Faculty Fellowship, contact Don Birkelbach '70 at (800) 392-3310 or d-birkelbach@tamu.edu.

Startup for Students

A new business accelerator developed and launched by students celebrated its grand opening in January at the Texas A&M Research Park. Startup Aggieland provides free business resources including workspace, mentoring and networking opportunities, all within a community of innovators.

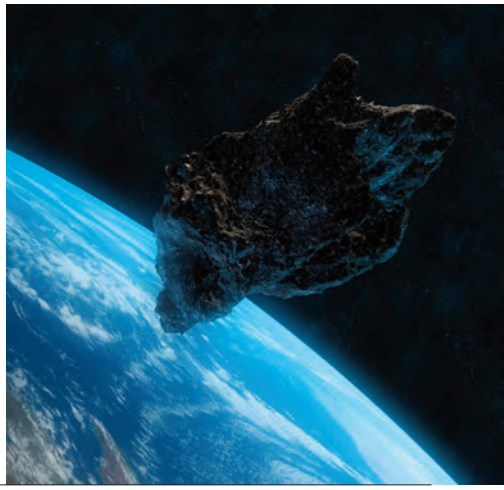
"Startup Aggieland is a cross-college, collaborative community designed to help student entrepreneurs develop business projects," said Blake Petty, assistant vice president for innovation and business development at Texas A&M, who advises student operators.

While he's best known for co-developing a touch-free computer screen called ZeroTouch—an achievement that landed him in a national Best Buy commercial—Texas A&M graduate student Jon Moeller is operating a new enterprise out of Startup Aggieland.

To find out how to support Startup Aggieland, contact Petty at (979) 845-8585 or blakepetty@tamu.edu, or visit give.am/SupportStartupAggieland to make an online gift.

To watch student innovators in action, scan this code with your smartphone or visit give.am/StartupAggieland.

LabWork



Dave Hyland, a professor in Texas A&M's Departments of Physics and Astronomy and Aerospace Engineering, has developed a theory that using an industrial coating process on an approaching asteroid could change its orbit.

Uncovering Mysteries of the Deep

Tom Iliffe, professor of marine biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston, led a diving team on a seven-day trip in January to explore and map the depths of Phantom Springs Cave, located in West Texas.

The team descended a record-breaking 462 feet in the underwater cave, believed to be the deepest of any submerged cave in the United States, as measured from the cave entrance.

Tom Iliffe, professor of marine biology and one of the world's most experienced cave diving scientists, led a diving team on a seven-day trip in January to explore and map the depths of Phantom Springs Cave in Texas.

"This is one of the longest underwater cave systems in the country," Iliffe said. "You have to swim horizontally for over a mile at an average depth of 30 feet before arriving at the spot where the cave passage begins to stair-step down."

Few people have ever been in the waters of Phantom Springs Cave; a scientific permit to investigate its deep waters is difficult to obtain. The Bureau of Reclamation firmly restricts access to the cave for environmental reasons and to preserve its sensitive ecosystem.

"Divers have been exploring this cave for more than 30 years, but there are still parts of it that no one has entered," he said. "It's like going to the far side of the moon. You turn a corner and realize you are seeing things no one has ever seen. It never ceases to be an amazing experience."

Iliffe and the team hope to return to Phantom Springs sometime later this year to continue mapping and exploring the cave and to identify various types of cave-adapted organisms.

To watch a video of the dive, visit give.am/PhantomSpringsCave.

Asteroids No Match for Paint Gun

Dave Hyland, a professor with joint appointments in Texas A&M's Departments of Physics and Astronomy and Aerospace Engineering, says one possible way to avert an asteroid collision with Earth is by using an industrial coating process to spread a thin layer of paint on an approaching asteroid.

"The concept does sound strange, but the odds are very high that such a plan would be successful and relatively inexpensive," Hyland said. "The science behind the theory is sound, but we need to test it in space."

Hyland theorizes that the paint will change the amount by which the asteroid reflects sunlight, producing a change in what is called the Yarkovsky effect. On a spinning asteroid, the dusk side is warmer than the dawn side and emits more thermal photons—each photon carrying a small momentum. Unequal heating of the asteroid will result in a force strong enough to cause the asteroid to shift from its orbit.

NASA has approached Hyland to develop a project to test the theory, and the Earth may need it quickly. An asteroid due in 2029 will come closer than many communications satellites currently in orbit.

To watch a video demonstrating Hyland's theory, visit give.am/Painting Asteroids.

Improved Ultrasound Imaging

Ultrasound technology could soon experience a marked upgrade thanks to the development of a new material by a team of researchers that includes Vladislav Yakovlev, a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Biomedical Engineering.

The engineered material converts ultrasound waves into optical signals that can be used to produce an image. It offers significant advantages over conventional ultrasound technology, which generates images by converting ultrasound waves into electrical signals.

"Greater sensitivity enables you to see deeper in tissue, suggesting we have the potential to generate images that might not have been possible with conventional ultrasound technology," Yakovlev said.

While their research is not yet ready for integration into ultrasound technology, the initial work by Yakovlev and his colleagues has successfully demonstrated how conventional technology can be substantially improved.

Rocky Footing for "Stand Your Ground"

After analyzing national crime statistics, Texas A&M University researcher Mark Hoekstra found that "stand your ground" laws have led to increased homicide rates in the more than 20 states that passed them. These laws remove the requirement to retreat and provide additional legal protections for those who claim self-defense when using lethal force.

"Homicides increased by 8 percent in states that passed the laws, relative to states that didn't pass the laws over the same time period," said Hoekstra, an associate professor in the Department of Economics. "Importantly, police classified these homicides as murder and non-negligent manslaughter, not as justifiable homicides."

Hoekstra analyzed state-level crime data from 2000 to 2009 from FBI uniform crime reports. While the research doesn't appear to fall into a category of traditional economics, Hoekstra says it is all about incentives.

"When you change self-defense law, you change incentives by reducing the expected penalty associated with using deadly force. As a result, economic theory says we will see more of it. Theory also predicts that empowering victims in this way should deter violent crime. When we look at the data, we see the increase in homicides, though we see no evidence that criminals are deterred from committing crimes like burglary or assault."

Hoekstra's study analyzed other outcomes as well—whether the laws reduce other violent crime by deterring criminals and whether more criminals were showing up armed.

In both cases, he found nothing. Hoekstra's data may suggest that in real-life conflicts, both sides believe "stand your ground" laws give them the right to shoot.

Rice Revolution

Organic rice studies have moved to the research forefront with almost $1 million in federal grants to Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists.

Led by Fugen Dou, assistant professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, the studies will look at yielding more high-quality organic rice in an environmentally friendly way.

"Organic rice farming may have greater potential for soil carbon sequestration but may also result in greater greenhouse gas emissions because of greater input of organic matter," Dou said.

There are many unknowns about growing the crop organically, he said. Because all U.S. rice is grown in flooded rice paddies, organic production methods developed for other crops do not pertain to rice farming.

"Although conventional rice production has decreased in Texas by about 36 percent in the last 15 years," Dou said, "the state now has about 15,000 acres of organic rice and is revitalizing the rice industry."

Researchers say demand for organic rice is on the rise in the U.S. Texas now has nearly 15,000 acres of organic rice, like this field near Beaumont.

New Gifts

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

Every Gift Counts

We would like to extend special thanks to donors who have recently given or committed $25,000 or more to the Texas A&M Foundation. To view this Honor Roll, which we publish online each year, visit bit.ly/25KHonorRoll.

In celebration of a $20 million gift from George P. Mitchell '40 to support his namesake institute for physics and astronomy, Texas A&M's College of Science hosted a reception in February that included Mitchell (seated), his daughter Sheridan Mitchell Lorenz, Texas A&M President Bowen Loftin '71 (center) and College of Science Dean Joe Newton.

COLLEGE IMPACT

Full Circle Commitment

A decade after making his first million-dollar gift to help transform Texas A&M University into a world leader in fundamental physics and astronomy, Houston businessman George P. Mitchell '40 has come full circle in that commitment with a $20 million legacy gift to benefit his namesake institute.

Established through the Texas A&M Foundation, the gift will significantly bolster the permanent endowment for the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy, which the couple created in 2002.

This most recent contribution solidifies Mitchell, a distinguished Texas A&M petroleum engineering graduate and founder of Mitchell Energy & Development Corp., as the university's most generous donor with a giving total exceeding $95 million.

The Mitchell Institute is home to physicists and astronomers who are using cutting-edge technology to solve some of the most challenging puzzles in our universe.

"George Mitchell has been reinvesting his success to help Texas A&M build the finest physics and astronomy program in the world," said Ed Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation.

Joeris Funds Construction Science Lab

Construction science students at Texas A&M will soon learn to accurately estimate the cost of construction projects in a state-of-the-art lab funded by a $250,000 gift from San Antonio-based Joeris General Contractors. Company president Gary Joeris announced the gift in November.

The new cost-estimation lab will be located in Francis Hall, which will house the Department of Construction Science beginning in fall 2014 after an $8 million renovation jointly financed by Texas A&M and private donations. The gift continues Joeris' multifaceted partnership with the department.

For more information about the Francis Hall Building Campaign, contact Larry Zuber, Texas A&M Foundation assistant vice president for development, at (979) 845-0939 or l-zuber@tamu.edu.

STUDENT IMPACT

A Big Match

In addition to creating an endowed scholarship at Texas A&M for incoming students involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters, Tracy Dieterich '87 also has served as a Big Brother for Justin Vecchio.

Tracy Dieterich '87, a longtime proponent of Big Brothers Big Sisters, is taking advantage of his employer's matching gift program to give back to the organization that assists children facing adversity.

Dieterich established an endowed scholarship to honor his mother Freda A. Dieterich with a gift of $25,000. The scholarship gives preference to full-time undergraduate students with financial need who were involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters either as mentors or former participants.

Dieterich was enrolled in the program at age nine, and has volunteered his own time as a mentor. "This scholarship isn't about me." he said. "It's about helping someone in the same way I was helped and developing a relationship with that person."

To fund the gift, the senior vice president at Wells Fargo Insurance Services in Houston participated in a company program that matches gifts dollar to dollar up to $5,000 annually to colleges and universities with which employees are affiliated.

To learn more about creating customizable endowments through matching-gift programs, contact David Hicks '75, Texas A&M Foundation assistant vice president for college programs, at (800) 392-3100 or david-hicks@tamu.edu.

In Honor of an Educator

When Skip Johnson '52 was a senior at Texas A&M University, he sold his senior boots so he could take his girlfriend to Ring Dance. Years later, he sold some corporate stocks so he could establish a scholarship in the College of Education and Human Development in honor of this same girlfriend, with whom he celebrated 60 years of marriage Dec. 27, 2012.

The Jean Putnam Johnson Scholarship supports education students who are preparing to become teachers, while honoring his wife.

"We give to Texas A&M because education is so important to the future of our state and our nation," Skip Johnson said. "The best place to get an education is Texas A&M, where good, honest, hard-working values are taught. We are glad that we can provide scholarships to a college that produces exceptional teachers, and creating these scholarships for Jean honors her career as an educator."

Jean and Skip Johnson '52

In 2011 and 2012, Johnson added two additional Jean Putnam Johnson scholarships, bringing the total number to 10, including a President's Endowed Scholarship and several Corps of Cadets' scholarships.

Accompanied by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Vice Chancellor and Dean Mark Hussey (left) and Texas A&M President Bowen Loftin '71 (right), Mollie Lastovica '14, president of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council, and Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67 signed an agreement in November to establish an endowed scholarship.

By Students, For Students

Supported by a unanimous vote of their 57 members, the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) Student Council created a $25,000 endowed scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation.

"We wanted to do something that would help students in the same way that other Foundation donors have helped us," said council president Mollie Lastovica '14.

Officers of the COALS Student Council know firsthand the impact a Texas A&M Foundation donor can make on a student's life. When a venue change for the council's career day dramatically reduced the event's operating costs and left their bank account with a surplus, it didn't take long to agree on how they should spend the money.

Once the scholarship is fully funded, it will support a COALS student with a GPR of 3.0 or higher who has demonstrated leadership ability, involvement in non-classroom activities and community service.

OneVoice

A Hand Up

ONE AGGIE'S JOURNEY FROM CORPORATE STRATEGIST TO SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

In September 2012 Mays Business School honored Rafael Alvarez '90, founder and CEO of Genesys Works, with its Entrepreneurial Leadership Award for extraordinary success in creating a new venture. Alvarez, an engineering graduate and former corporate strategist for Compaq, told his story to a packed auditorium of business students.

When I graduated from Texas A&M University nearly 22 years ago, I was confident that I would be successful. What I didn't know was that I would achieve success not by becoming wealthy, but by changing the trajectory of life for thousands of young people.

According to *Forbes* Magazine, I am one of the top 30 social entrepreneurs in the world. It's still hard for me to believe, and I consider myself unworthy of such an accolade. So many others have achieved far more than I.

But if sharing my story will inspire even one person to pursue a path of social entrepreneurship, I will gladly accept the honor.

Missing Link

In 1991 a mechanical engineering degree from Texas A&M allowed me to begin my career at Compaq Computer Corp., where I spent 11 years climbing the management ladder to become a corporate strategist. My job was to find creative ways for the company to make more money—billions more. I had a good life, a great family and a hefty income. But something was missing.

To fill the gap in my life, I volunteered for nonprofit organizations. In 1998, I began serving on the board for Southwest High School, a new charter school in Houston for children from low-income families. Its focus is to ensure that every student earns a high school diploma, which is a huge achievement for most of them.

In 2001, I attended Southwest High School's graduation ceremony. After the event, I spoke with the graduates about their plans for the future. Sadly, most of them said they would continue working in fast food, construction, maintenance or similar jobs that rarely provide an avenue for career growth.

It pained me to know that these bright young people full of potential might be trapped in a minimum-wage job. How would they ever advance to a profession that would allow them to attain even a moderate standard of living? They wouldn't. I know now from experience that the majority of them stay in dead-end jobs, struggling to make ends meet for the rest of their lives.

I knew they could achieve more, but they were unaware of the possibilities. Neither their friends nor family members had ever attended college, nor had any of their role models worked as professionals.

A Social Entrepreneur Is Born

Through my job as a strategist for Compaq, I knew there was a market for entry-level information technology

Rafael Alvarez '90, founder and CEO of Genesys Works, has created a connection between business and education that is giving young people the taste of achievement and success through his nonprofit organization.

services. I realized that if I could find a way to train these students to supply those services in a professional way, and to engage them in meaningful internships during their senior years in high school—before they made career decisions—then perhaps their futures could be different. If I gave them the opportunity to experience success as professionals, their life trajectories could change. And if these services were cost-effective, companies would be willing to pay for them.

It was then that I envisioned a financially self-sustaining nonprofit organization to assist young people and provide a vital service.

But there were a few problems: I had a stable job that paid well, a comfortable lifestyle, a family to support and a growing corporate career. I wasn't ready to leave it all to start a nonprofit. My dream was taking shape, but I was hesitant to pursue it. I needed a catalyst.

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States, an event that changed the course of my life. About a week later, at the age of 34, I decided to stop making computers and to start making a real difference.

Sandwich Maker Turned Professional

With only 10 students and a $50,000 seed grant from Social Venture Partners, in 2002 I started Genesys Works in Houston. I decided to delay my compensation for a year so I could apply all of our limited funding to building the organization.

One of my first students was Hector Avellaneda '08. Hector's parents did not finish middle school. The oldest of three, he recalls believing that the only way he would ever own a car was to become a drug dealer, like so many of his neighborhood peers. He was working at a sandwich shop when he learned about Genesys Works and decided to enter the program. His first internship was at the corporate headquarters of Reliant Energy; just 15 minutes from his family's one-bedroom house, but a world apart from where he was headed.

Through the program, Hector discovered new options for his life, and near the end of his internship he decided to pursue a college degree at Texas A&M. With the help of the Aggie network, he received the scholarships needed to attend.

When Hector registered for his first semester at Texas A&M, a reporter at *The Houston Chronicle* wrote a front page story about his improbable path and the odds against him succeeding in college. She was right. Hector's first semester GPR was 1.7. He considered dropping out, but the Aggie family wouldn't allow it. Instead, it pointed him to resources at Texas A&M that could teach him how to study and learn.

In 2008 he landed a student internship with Hewlett-Packard (HP), and a year later graduated from Texas A&M with a 3.0 GPR. "I graduated during the financial meltdown—at the worst possible time," Avellaneda said. "Most corporations had hiring freezes, but HP kept me on as an intern for nine months until it was able to offer me full-time work."

In 2010 HP hired him as a full-time software program manager that paid twice as much as his parents' combined income.

But Hector is most proud of the influence that he had on his younger siblings, both of whom followed in his footsteps, into Genesys Works and then to college. His brother Moses is a freshman mechanical engineering major at Texas A&M–Kingsville, on

Hector Avellaneda '08 ended the cycle of poverty in his family with the help of Genesys Works, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping inner-city high school students succeed as professionals in the corporate world. Avellaneda is a software program manager with Hewlett-Packard in Houston.

track to transfer to the College Station campus during his sophomore year. His sister Irene, who will graduate in May from the University of Houston with a degree in criminal justice, plans to attend law school.

"I always took my education seriously, but my only reality for success after high school was the military," he said. "Genesys Works came into my life when I was surrounded by nothing but gangs and drugs. It introduced me to a completely new reality that I never would have imagined possible. The paradigm shift that ensued was revolutionary and changed not only my life but that of my younger brother and sister, ending the cycle of poverty in my family forever."

Success and Big Dreams

Genesys Works has grown quickly since 2001 and now serves almost 1,000 students annually; all of them work in the best corporations in Houston, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago and, new in 2013, San Francisco. We chose these cities because they have a solid base of corporate clients as well as a growing population of inner-city kids who can benefit from the opportunity. And benefit they do. Ninety-five percent of our graduates attend college, which is remarkable given that grades are not part of our admission criteria.

We are far from accomplishing my ultimate vision for Genesys Works, which is to become the catalyst for an unprecedented connection between business and education. I dream that, with help from my company and others like it, the next generation of young people in our public schools will follow a path through college into rewarding jobs that our American companies need to remain competitive.

I envision a day in which all high school kids, regardless of their socioeconomic background, finish high school with the knowledge that they can succeed in the professional world and improve their lives and the lives of their children. I'm confident of our goals and purpose, and we are making progress.

Along with my family, my work is now my life and my life is my work. The line between the two is blurry, and I prefer it that way. Once I discovered a way to pursue my passion, I had no doubt that I could change lives. In the process, I have changed my own life and have never been happier. This yearning to help kids, to make a difference and to leave behind a meaningful legacy, was perhaps always within me. My experience at Texas A&M nurtured it, and then gave me the means to build a career and support my family until my true purpose could blossom.

With my team at Genesys Works, we are giving young people the taste of achievement and success—a hand up, not a hand out. Flipping burgers or dealing drugs are no longer acceptable "career" options for Genesys Works' students.

—BY RAFAEL ALVAREZ '90
FOUNDER AND CEO
GENESYS WORKS

To learn more about Genesys Works, visit genesysworks.org.

To see how lives are changed through Genesys Works, scan this code with your phone or visit give.am/GenesysWorks.

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

One University. Three Ways to Give.

Spring is in the air and these Gulf Fritillary butterflies, photographed frolicking in Texas A&M's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Garden, are in the mood for love. Located on the rooftop of the George P. Mitchell '40 Physics Building, the first-of-its-kind garden is supported by a permanent endowment established by George Mitchell through the Texas A&M Foundation. Dedicated to the inherent inspiration and education Cynthia Woods Mitchell found in nature, the garden features native Texas plants and environment-conscious design highlighted by the fact that it is irrigated—along with the building's other exterior landscapes—by a cistern that collects and stores both condensate and rainfall.

Viewpoint

COLLEGE IMPACT ❦ NEW BUILDING OFFERS COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ENGLISH AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Stepping inside the new Arts and Humanities Building on the Texas A&M University campus fills visitors with a sense of openness. Hallways create unobstructed loops, floors are connected by conspicuous staircases, and vast windows reveal a carefully manicured courtyard, bringing the outdoors in. The brick and limestone building was designed with collaboration in mind, so this connectedness is especially fitting.

Located between the Melbern G. Glasscock History Building and the Jack K. Williams Administration Building, the Arts and Humanities Building is the only structure on campus designed specifically for the College of Liberal Arts, which is currently distributed across 19 buildings on three campuses. Not only is the project a major step forward in Texas A&M's *Vision 2020* imperative to strengthen the arts, but the new space also allows for an interdisciplinary partnership between the Department of English and the Department of Performance Studies (both of which are housed there) as well as greater cooperation between students and faculty.

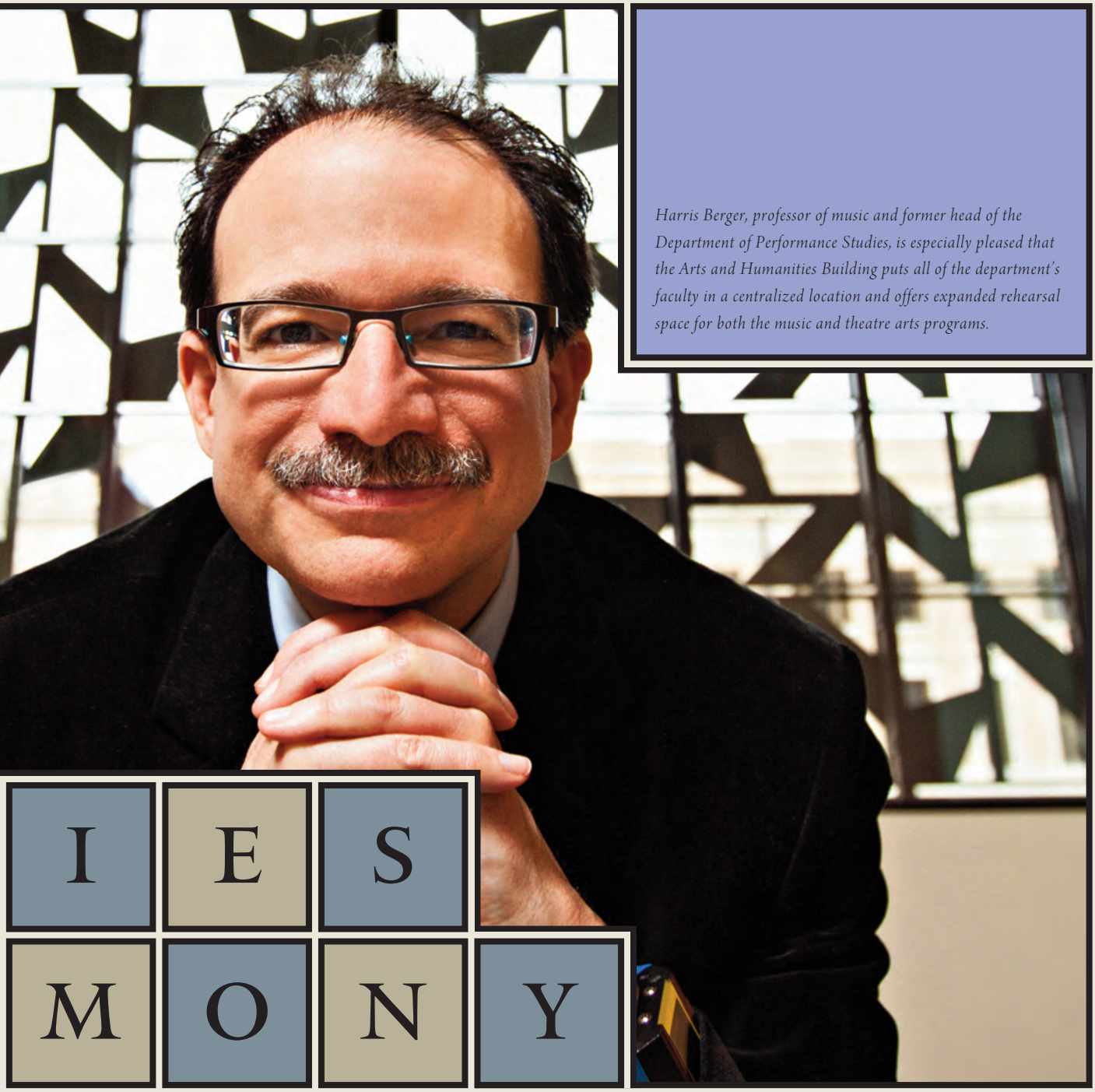
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

For the Department of Performance Studies, the Arts and Humanities Building lends itself well to dynamic learning: art becomes equal parts creator and spectator. The Black Box Theater—a large space with

HUMANITIES IN HARMONY

chairs and staging that can be arranged to meet production needs—provides flexibility and allows for more audience interaction than a traditional theater. Windows in the rehearsal rooms invite passersby to engage with performers and experience the creative process in action. The outdoor courtyard features a performance area complete with electrical access in which musicians can perform, actors can run lines and students can gather.

Harris Berger, professor of music and former head of the Department of Performance Studies, is especially excited about the opportunities the building will afford students and faculty. The transition to the new building unites all performance studies faculty in the same



Harris Berger, professor of music and former head of the Department of Performance Studies, is especially pleased that the Arts and Humanities Building puts all of the department's faculty in a centralized location and offers expanded rehearsal space for both the music and theatre arts programs.

I E S

M O N Y

space for the first time in the history of the department. Berger believes the Arts and Humanities Building will offer the department ample opportunity to expand its already large list of achievements.

"One of the great things about our program is that students don't just sit in a room and listen to lectures. They have hands-on experience creating costumes, building sets, writing and performing music, and making recordings," Berger said. "The facility speaks to that. The students are involved in hands-on learning and also working as collaborators."

A MATERIAL COMMITMENT

The Department of English also benefits from increased space to house two significant projects—the World Shakespeare Bibliography and the Initiative in Digital Humanities, Media and Culture, one of Texas A&M's Academic Master Plan highlights. The digital humanities initiative, which is overseen by the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education, Engineering and Architecture, aims to improve scholarly access to early modern texts through digitization. This program emphasizes interdisciplinary collaborations and technological approaches to the study of language.

The new facility influenced Nancy Warren's decision to work at Texas A&M. As head of the Department of English, she sees it as a significant material commitment to the humanities. "I got a tour when I came for my interview, and they showed me this big hole in the ground and said, 'This is where the English department's new building will be,'" she said. "It impressed me that the university cares enough about the humanities and considers it central to the educational mission to invest in building a state-of-the-art facility."

Warren is enthusiastic about the spaces in the building that give professors and students a chance to continue conversations after class. It also features moveable chairs and high-tech audio-visual equipment that inspires innovative teaching and environmental creativity. In addition, the department now has a meeting space that accommodates all 90 faculty members. "All of a sudden attendance at faculty meetings has gone way up," said Warren.

The Department of English and the Department of Performance Studies are brainstorming ways to bridge their curricula. Warren said they are considering pairing English majors with performance studies students to explore literary mediums that work better as performance. A performative reading of Chaucer, for instance, could open students to new meanings they may not have read in the text.

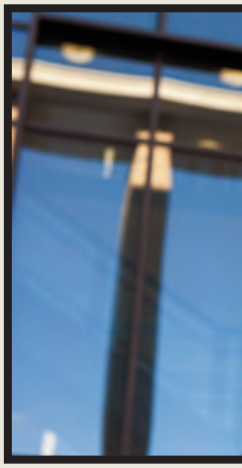
SPACE FOR CREATIVITY

On April 19, the College of Liberal Arts hosted a grand opening ceremony to celebrate the building and the academic future it signifies. For senior Nathan Tamborello '13, the grand opening was a prime opportunity to showcase his work as a musician and artist.

Tamborello is a music major with an emphasis on vocal performance. In addition, he is a film studies minor, an

ABOVE: *The new Arts and Humanities Building inspired Nancy Warren's decision to work at Texas A&M University. As head of the Department of English, Warren is enthusiastic about spaces in the building that allow students and faculty to collaborate on more projects.*

RIGHT: *For Nathan Tamborello '13, a music major with an emphasis on vocal performance, the new Arts and Humanities Building offers a prime opportunity to hone his creative work as a musician and artist.*



English minor and a painter—a talent he only recently discovered. His senior project melds all of his passions into one cohesive experience. "I decided to combine all my studies here into a project that would represent who I am as an artist, and the new building is a great venue for that," said Tamborello.

The Conroe native showcased his senior capstone project at the grand opening, using indoor and outdoor space within the building as inspiration and canvas.

"Outside I showcased some of my artwork on pillars and correlated it with music I've written. The art is inspired by the music."

Tamborello also performed opera pieces as visitors toured the exhibit, including a Tchaikovsky piece that he translated from the original Russian.

The venture took shape as Tamborello discussed ideas with other students and professors. "This project has involved a lot of support from the faculty. After I had gone through my first evaluation of the project, I had professors emailing me saying they wanted to help out, and they had ideas for the space that they wanted to bring to me," he said.

Tamborello hopes that his work introduced viewers to the quality of the education the College of Liberal Arts offers.

"The whole point of the project was to bring together different art disciplines for people who don't realize that a vibrant music program exists here at Texas A&M," he said. "I really want people to understand that what we're doing is significant and get them to see artwork in a different way."

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE

While Texas A&M paid for the building through the Permanent University Fund, there are still numerous naming opportunities within it. The College of Liberal Arts is seeking a $10 million naming gift for the entire building as well as smaller gifts to name individual floors, wings, labs and classrooms. Funds from these gifts will support academic programs and create scholarships for students like Tamborello.

"The opening of the new Liberal Arts and Humanities Building is truly a transformational event for the College of Liberal Arts," said José Luis Bermúdez, dean of the college. "For the first time, Texas A&M will have theater and music facilities commensurate with a top-tier research university. The spaces to support undergraduate teaching and faculty research are most impressive, and they also will help us recruit the best students and outstanding faculty from Texas and beyond."

—BY MONIKA BLACKWELL

You can create a legacy in the College of Liberal Arts by supporting the Arts and Humanities Building. To learn about naming opportunities in the building, visit give.am/ArtsAndHumanities, or contact:

Larry Walker '97
Director of Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 458-1304
l-walker@tamu.edu

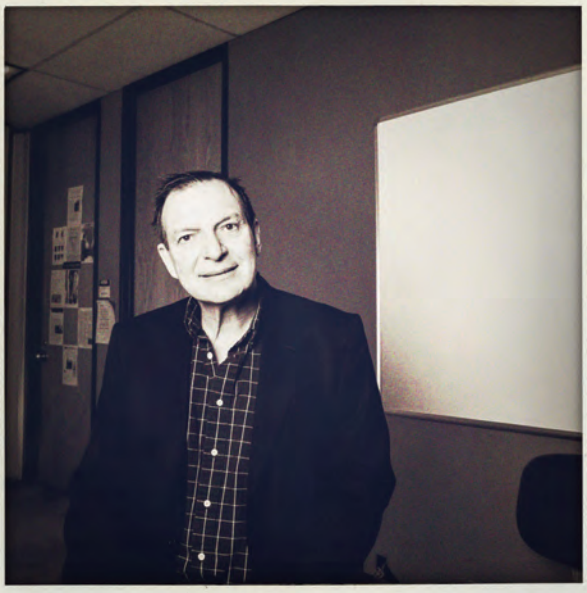
CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION

While "collaboration" characterizes what happens within the new Arts and Humanities Building, "sustainability" best describes its design. Brown Reynolds Watford Architects designed the Arts and Humanities Building to meet the LEED (Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design) silver rating. Its carpets are made of materials that prevent off-gassing, and an underground cistern collects rainwater and air conditioning condensate. The cistern will hold 20,000 gallons of water, which will be used to irrigate the green space around the building. The building is also the first on campus to use the DuPont™ Tyvek® Fluid Applied System, which provides a continuous high-performance barrier against air and water infiltration, making the building more energy efficient and protecting it from leaks that could lead to mold formation.

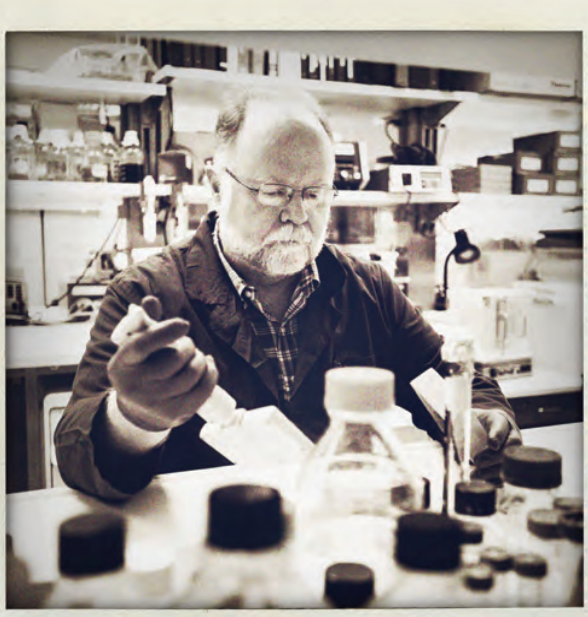
Scan this code with your smartphone or visit give.am/AggieArtist to see how Tamborello discovered his artistic talents.

TEXAS A&M SCIENTISTS WORKING UNDER THE WEIZMANN PROGRAM INCLUDE (FROM TOP LEFT) CHRISTIAN HILTY, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY; CLIFFORD SPIEGELMAN, DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS; THOMAS FICHT, DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PATHOBIOLOGY; AND OLEG OSEROV, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY (PAGE 23).

CHRISTIAN HILTY



CLIFFORD SPIEGELMAN

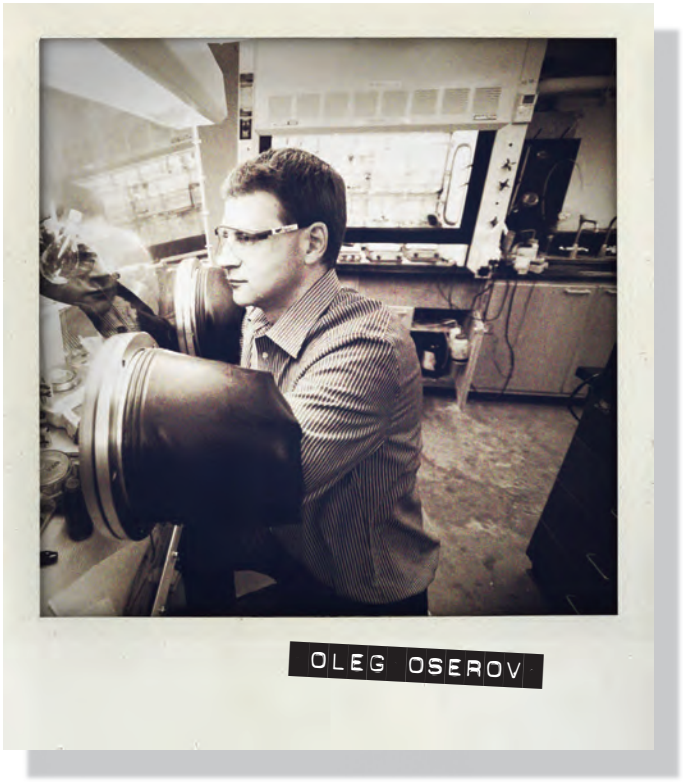


THOMAS FICHT

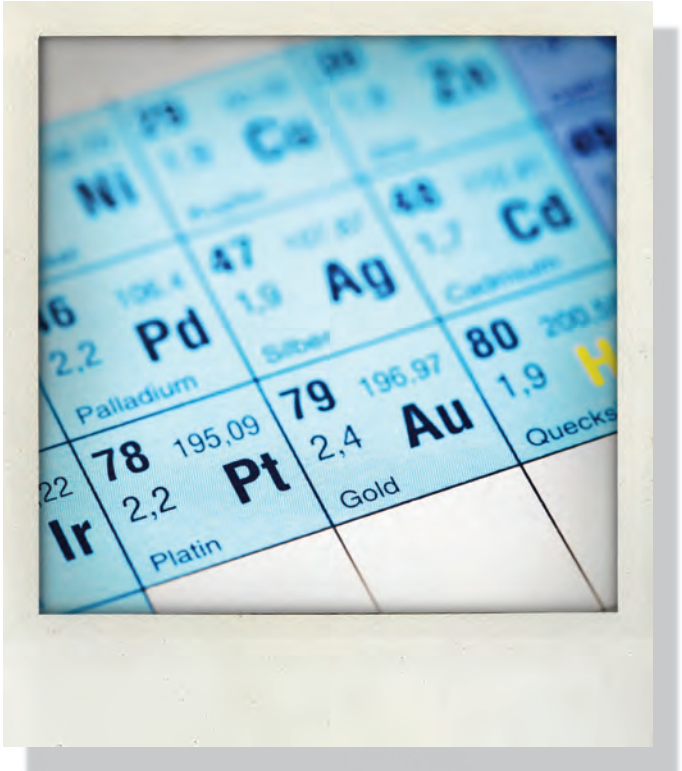
FACULTY IMPACT:

RESEARCH VANGUARD

New international collaborative tackles critical health problems and information issues



OLEG OSEROV



An international research collaborative between Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, the Weizmann Institute of Science and Aggie philanthropists could lead to cleaner air, cleaner fuel, healthier humans and faster computers.

The Weizmann Institute of Science is considered one of the foremost centers of multidisciplinary research and graduate study in the world. Established in 1934 in Rehovot, Israel, it is committed to basic science research that has led to groundbreaking medical and technological applications. The institute, which is divided into the five disciplines of mathematics/computer science, physics, chemistry, biochemistry and biology, encourages its faculty to partner with university faculties and scientists around the world.

With more than $700 million in research funding and a top-tier national ranking, Texas A&M already has active partnerships and collaborative agreements with researchers and institutions in 39 other countries worldwide. All of these factors made Texas A&M a likely candidate for a venture with the Weizmann Institute.

The opportunity for Texas A&M and Weizmann researchers to collaborate came about in 2009 when officials from each institution signed a Memorandum of Agreement creating the Texas A&M-Weizmann Research Collaborative. Once details of the program were finalized, a formal call for proposals was issued to Texas A&M faculty in 2011.

"World-class scientific discoveries often take years to develop and increasingly involve international teams of scientists," said Charles A. Johnson, Texas A&M's senior associate vice president for research. "Our partnership with Weizmann will enhance those discoveries, give our researchers new opportunities to join forces with scientists around the world and ultimately solve some of society's most complex issues."

BASIC SCIENCE, AMAZING RESULTS

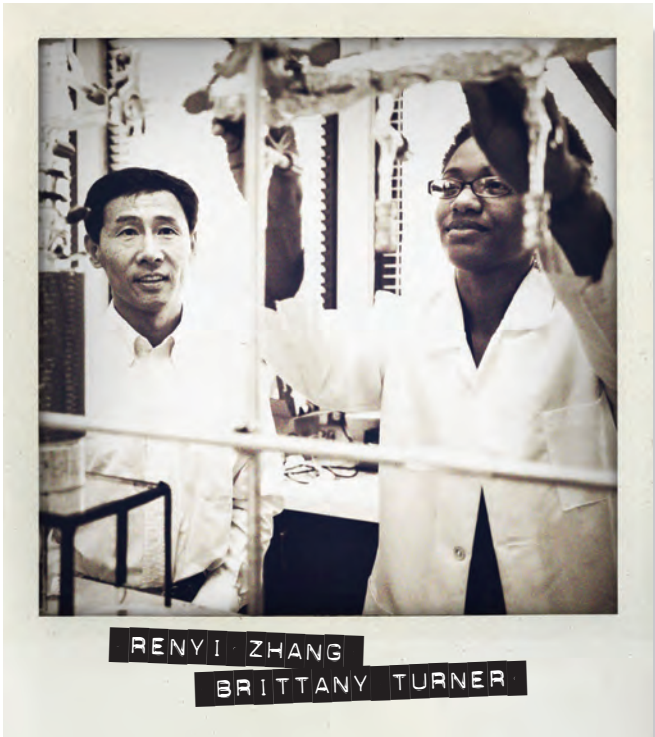
The 2011 call for proposals at Texas A&M yielded 22 responses in life science, natural science, cosmology and mathematics. The selection committee chose eight projects to receive two years of seed funding. To continue their work after two years, researchers must seek federal or international grant funding or private gifts.

These eight projects involve basic science research, much of which takes place among cells, atoms, electrons and molecules using processes and languages unfamiliar to the lay person. The desired outcomes, though, are crystal clear.

Four projects address health, such as finding a treatment for a deadly form of meningitis prevalent among populations with high HIV-infections, or strengthening the body's ability to fight autoimmune diseases, such as type I diabetes, lupus or arthritis and improving its ability to accept transplanted organs. Another project addresses the processes by which healthy tissue can be recreated or regenerated. The hope is that one day physicians may replace diseased organs with healthy organs grown from a patient's own tissue. Still another health-related project may enhance drug discoveries through a transformative process for studying proteins.

Two projects address environmental issues: clean air and renewable energy. The clean air study seeks answers about air pollution caused when organic particles from sources such as fire, soil and sea waves interact with sunlight. Such pollution accounts for almost half of atmospheric particles. A second environmental project involves converting fats and triglycerides into renewable fuel sources such as biodiesel or other useful chemicals under cleaner and safer industrial processes.

Two additional projects that involve quantum computing and development of a new algorithm for processing large data sets could dramatically increase the speed and



RENYI ZHANG
BRITTANY TURNER

XIAOHUA LIU

TEXAS A&M-WEIZMANN SCIENTISTS INCLUDE (FROM LEFT PAGE 24) RENYI ZHANG, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY & ENVIRONMENT, SHOWN WITH GRADUATE ASSISTANT BRITTANY TURNER; XIAOHUA LIU, BAYLOR COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES; (PAGE 25) JAIRO SINOVA (LEFT), DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS; AND ALEXANDER FINKELSTEIN, DEPARTMENT OF CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS AT THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE.

accuracy of research. The new algorithm in the classification and regression project seeks to better determine real relationships from false correlations in massive, complex data sets to produce a more accurate analysis. Quantum computing seeks to dramatically increase processing speed by harnessing the spin cycles of electrons.

INNOVATIVE PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

Many of the researchers already have made dramatic discoveries, like Texas A&M's Oleg Ozerov and Weizmann's David Milstein, both organometallic chemists and partners on the renewable fuel project.

Considered a world leader in organometallic chemistry, Milstein discovered new ways to selectively activate chemical bonds and to develop environmentally friendly catalysts. In 2007 his ruthenium-based catalyst, called the Milstein catalyst, was one of *Science* magazine's 10 "breakthroughs of the year." In 2012 Milstein was awarded the Israel Prize for chemistry and physics, the country's highest honor.

Ozerov also is known on the world stage. He found a new way to break the carbon-fluorine bond—one of the strongest in chemistry and found in many super greenhouse gases—at room temperature. The discovery may enhance our ability to destroy select atmospheric pollutants. In 2012 the then-35-year-old chemist received the American Chemical Society's Pure Chemistry Award and the Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research from the Robert A. Welch Foundation.

"WORLD-CLASS SCIENTIFIC **DISCOVERIES** TAKE YEARS TO DEVELOP AND INCREASINGLY INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS OF SCIENTISTS."

— Charles A. Johnson
SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THE TEAM BEHIND THE SCENE

A husband and wife team with passionate ties to Weizmann and Texas A&M had advocated for a collaboration between the Texas and Israeli institutions for several years. Tina and Paul Gardner '66 of College Station were introduced to Weizmann by her father, the late Milton T. Smith, a successful Austin businessman and philanthropist. The couple continued Smith's commitment to philanthropic causes, growing especially close to the institute. The relationship turned personal when they learned that a Weizmann discovery helped Tina Gardner win a 10-year battle with lymphoma in the early 2000s.

The Gardners visited with several Texas A&M officials about a formal research collaboration between Texas A&M and Weizmann. Dr. Mike McKinney, former chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, found the idea worth exploring. Meetings ensued between representatives from Texas A&M and Weizmann that led to the 2009 agreement.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Funding this collaborative reflects a new direction for Texas A&M. While each institution provided seed funding, the agreement states that private philanthropy will be pursued to support future endeavors.

Johnson says that in today's international research environment, multiple funding sources are necessary to sustain projects, such as donations from private individuals or foundations along with government, industry and academic institutions.

The Texas A&M-Weizmann initiative calls for individuals and foundations to fund the two- or three-year projects. Donors may choose to name the project they support and to build a relationship with the researchers. The Gardners donated $300,000 toward a research project named in honor of McKinney and his wife Lou Ann.

"If there is one thing we've learned about raising funds," said Paul Gardner, "it's that you can't ask anybody to do something that you haven't done yourself."

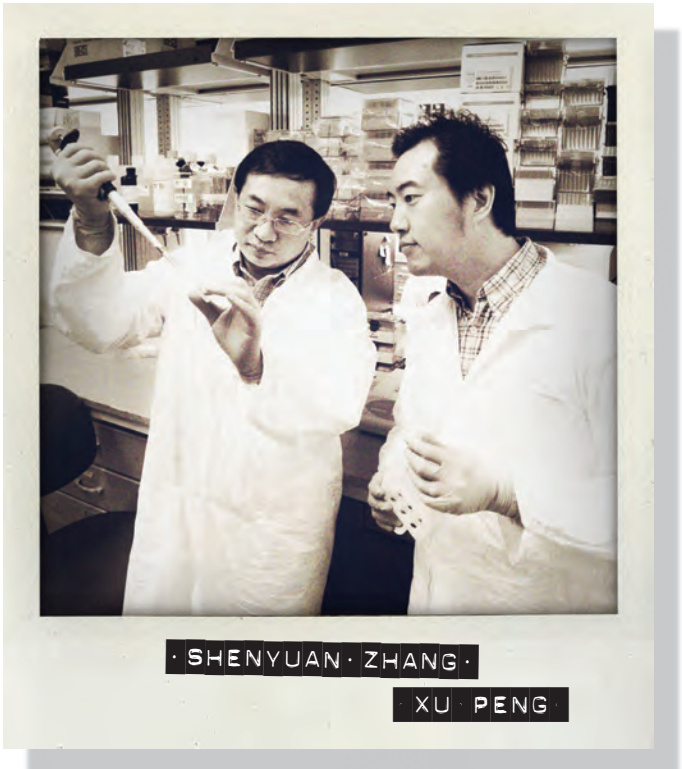
The Gardners are not the sole private benefactors of the project. Although they have not yet directed it to a particular research project or professor, in 2011 the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation of Dallas made a $25,000 gift to support the program.

"Paul and Tina Gardner have seen firsthand how basic scientific research leads to game-changing discoveries," said Johnson. "Their gift, and that of the Zale Foundation, is an example of an exciting new area of philanthropy for Texas A&M in the coming years."

—BY LEANNE SOUTH '94

Read more about the Texas A&M-Weizmann Collaborative Program at give.am/TAMUWeizmann. To learn how you can support the program, contact:

Jim Palincsar
Senior Vice President for Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161
j-palincsar@tamu.edu



SHENYUAN ZHANG AND XU PENG, BOTH WITH THE TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS BIOLOGY & TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE, ARE RESEARCHING THE BODY'S ABILITY TO FIGHT INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER THE TEXAS A&M-WEIZMANN INITIATIVE.

TEXAS A&M–WEIZMANN COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

Nineteen faculty on eight research teams from Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the Weizmann Institute of Science are working on science projects that ultimately seek to improve human health, the environment and the speed and accuracy of research and knowledge.

NOVEL APPROACHES TO FUELS AND CHEMICALS FROM BIOMASS TRIGLYCERIDES

Creating biodiesel from triglycerides using a cleaner process under safer conditions.

Oleg V. Ozerov
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

David Milstein
DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

ULTRAFAST MULTIDIMENSIONAL NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (NMRI)

Improving NMRI to advance the study of peptides proteins for basic science and drug discovery.

Christian Hilty
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Lucio Frydman
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

TOPOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND QUANTUM PUMPING IN SYSTEMS WITH STRONG SPIN-ORBIT COUPLING

Exploring the complex systems that link the charge and spin properties of electrons to revolutionize computing speed.

Jairo Sinova
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Alexander Finkelstein
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY AND WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS

Yuval Oreg
DEPARTMENT OF CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

SUPPRESSION OF IMMUNE FUNCTIONS BY A CALCIUM RELEASE ACTIVATED CHANNEL (CRAC) PEPTIDE INHIBITOR

Investigating how to manipulate the body's CRAC (a protein mutation) channels to strengthen its ability to fight infectious disease.

Shenyuan Zhang
DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS BIOLOGY & TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE
TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Xu Peng
DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS BIOLOGY & TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE
TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Guy Shakhar
DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

A NONPARAMETRIC MARKOV APPROACH TO CLASSIFICATION AND REGRESSION

Developing new algorithms for analyzing complex data sets resulting in more accurate findings and truer discoveries.

Clifford H. Spiegelman
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Boaz Nadler
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

BIOMIMETIC THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCAFFOLDS FOR REGULATING CELL BEHAVIOR AND FATE

Tracking how cells respond in settings that mimic their physical environments to create a platform for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Xiaohua Liu
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Benjamin Geiger
DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

MECHANISMS MEDIATING INTRACELLULAR PARASITISM BY CRYPTOCOCCUS NEOFORMANS

Investigating how an AIDS-defined fungus compromises proteins and manipulates molecular mechanisms to infect healthy cells. Results should advance how to use proteins to fight infectious diseases.

Thomas Ficht
DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PATHOBIOLOGY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Paul de Figueiredo
DEPARTMENTS OF PLANT PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY/CHEMISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

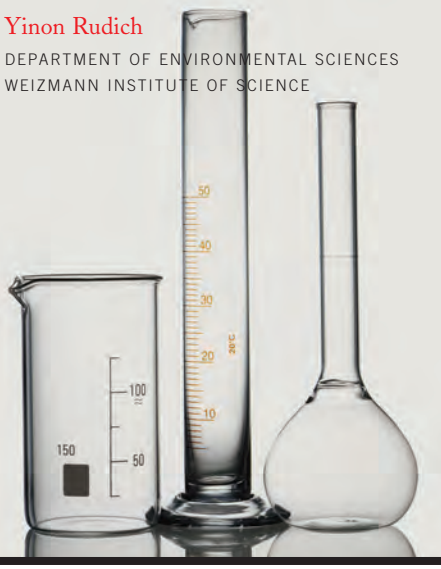
Zvulun Elazar
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

FORMATION MECHANISM AND SPECTRAL PROPERTIES OF LIGHT-ABSORBING SECONDARY ORGANIC AEROSOLS

Determining how organic air pollutants (from soot, dust or sea salt) and sunlight produce aerosols. Discoveries will contribute to strategies for controlling air pollution.

Renyi Zhang
DEPARTMENTS OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES & CHEMISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Yinon Rudich
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



Spirit Impact

on a High Note

Drew Shelnutt '11 knew nothing about the Singing Cadets when he arrived at Texas A&M University in fall 2009, but that changed following a trip to the local Goodwill. Browsing the aisles, the Virginia native noticed a glass ashtray with a blue, yellow and maroon shield—the official symbol of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets.

Gifted with an exceptional bass vocal range, Shelnutt's interest sparked. He bought the ashtray for a couple of dollars, not knowing why he felt a connection to it but certain that it meant something. A few days and a short rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" later, he landed a spot in Texas A&M's premier men's chorus. Now president of the Singing Cadets, Shelnutt leads by example to foster the spirit of brotherhood that characterizes the organization.

"The relationships we build in this group are truly incredible," Shelnutt said. "We aren't just about building friendships, but about building character—and the two always seem to go together."

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets have captivated audiences across the nation as skilled masters of music and men of character for 109 years. As grounded in tradition as the songs they sing, the 63 members of this collegiate ensemble belt out sacred hymns as aptly as modern-day medleys—and they never miss a beat.

In their 109th year, the Texas A&M Singing Cadets continue to mesmerize audiences across the State and globe.

Renowned Reputation

The Singing Cadets are the most-performing college chorus in the United States with more than 70 musical presentations each year across Texas and the nation.

And their reputation precedes them. The Singing Cadets' history includes performances for U.S. presidents, foreign ambassadors, congressmen, state governors and Texas A&M presidents at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the White House to St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

"We've been afforded window after window of opportunity that no other organization in the history of Texas A&M has experienced," said David Kipp, director of the Singing Cadets for the past 18 years. "And every performance, no matter how impressive the venue for whom we are singing, has one purpose."

That purpose, on which the group was founded, is to enhance the public relations of Texas A&M through musical presentations. The group achieves this aim by staying with host families during tours, which provides opportunities to spread awareness of Texas A&M and its traditions.

First-year cadets learn a number of pointers to aid them in host homes—don't talk politics, make your bed and leave the bathroom clean. Following a stay, each member handwrites a thank-you note to instill a habit of expressing appreciation

"We positively impact people all over the world—as close as Allen, Texas, or as far away as Australia. If we get someone to think a little better about the United States, about the state of Texas, or about Texas A&M University,, we've achieved our purpose," Kipp said.

Every three years, international tours give the Singing Cadets the opportunity to spread awareness of Texas A&M on a global scale. Kipp carefully selected this year's music in preparation for a tour to China in May, where the group is slated to perform at the finest concert halls in four cities: Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou and Shanghai. The group's repertoire includes upbeat music either written or originally performed by male groups—from revered classics to medleys from the Jersey Boys and The Temptations to songs of the Old West.

Pride in Performing

Although the students are capable of executing any music genre, their typical concert pairs Aggie songs with sacred pieces, Broadway selections and the most requested song, "God Bless the USA." Echoes from one performance of "God Bless the USA" still resound for third-year member Shelnutt.

"Last year we had the opportunity to perform at a veterans' hospital in front of nearly 100 former students and Aggie supporters who served our country," Shelnutt said. "At the end of the performance, I watched a group of men and women in wheelchairs put all of their effort into standing as we sang "God Bless the USA." It was an incredible display of pride, and I felt so blessed to have been able to perform for them."

During a 2009 U.S. tour, the Singing Cadets performed the national anthem at Fenway Park in Boston, home of the Boston Red Sox. CBS sportscaster Jim Nantz posed with the group afterward.

Shelnutt has just as much pride in the Singing Cadets, an organization which he says instills the value of service above self and shapes individuals into leaders of character. A second-year doctoral student in the Urban and Regional Sciences Program in the College of Architecture, Shelnutt is an experienced leader. As an undergraduate, he served as student body president at George Mason University, and he is now director of the 2013 Southeastern Conference Leadership Exchange.

"I try to lead by example so that new members learn what is expected of them and how they can manifest those values in their everyday lives," Shelnutt said. "We have always been an organization that sets high standards and expects every member to act in accordance—that is what makes each Singing Cadet so proud to be a member of this group."

The same sense of pride is shared by former Singing Cadets who maintain ties with the group, such as Fred McClure '76, chief executive officer of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. McClure participated in the Singing Cadets for more than two years as a second tenor before he was elected the first African-American student body president of Texas A&M in 1976.

"I loved the camaraderie of the group, the great music we performed and the chance to represent Texas A&M," McClure said. "I learned the value of teamwork in achieving a shared goal. Organizations like this that represent our university and provide leadership opportunities for our students deserve our highest support."

The Music Must Go On

The group receives funding through university advancement fees to cover operational expenses, but as travel expenses continue to rise and university funding remains flat, the Singing Cadets increasingly rely on outside funds.

Because the group performs internationally every three years, its annual resources are limited for Texas and U.S. tours. Kipp would like to take the Singing Cadets on one major national tour every year, but lacks the funds to do this without endangering the international travel.

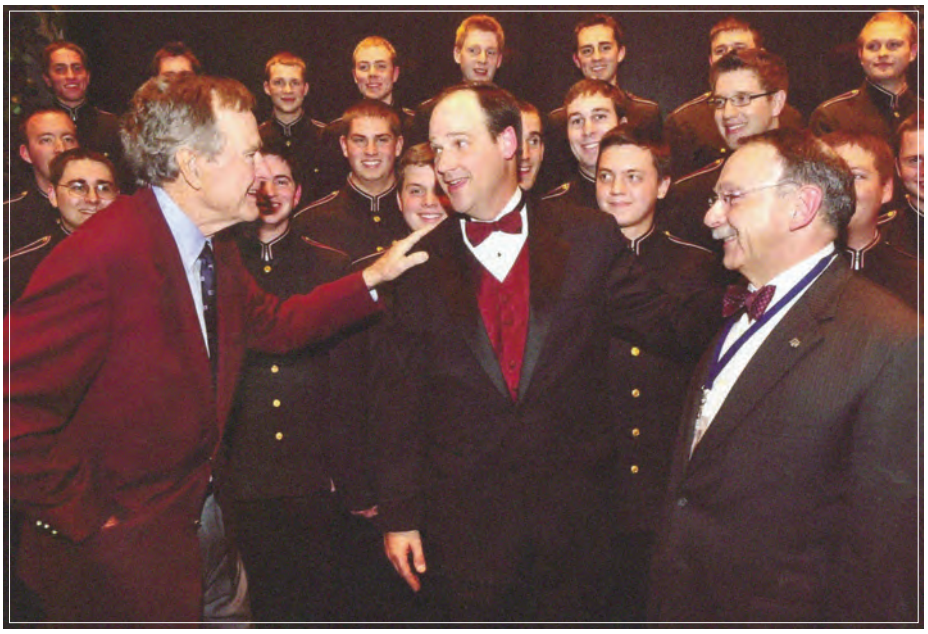
Funds from six endowments through the Texas A&M Foundation directly benefit the Singing Cadets for purchasing uniforms or financing tours.

In honor of David Kipp and the Singing Cadets, Patricia and Glendale Rand '57 established an endowment in 2008 to help recruit new members and to provide financial support to those in need. In 2011 they created a second endowment to help purchase new uniforms for the Singing Cadets as they are needed.

Despite relocating 17 times, the Rands call Aggieland home and reserve a special place in their hearts for the Singing Cadets.

"The Singing Cadets leave such a great impression on the university, and our gifts honor this tradition," Glendale Rand said. "Our endowments also publicly recognize the exemplary service, leadership and overall performance of David Kipp, and we hope they will be a lasting benefit to our beloved Singing Cadets."

Private gifts like those from the Rands enable the Singing Cadets to be so much more than just a "singing class that performs at Texas A&M," said Kipp. "With gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation to support the Singing Cadets, donors directly benefit students of Texas A&M and expand our opportunities. These gifts are applied to real students making a difference at the university."



The Singing Cadets enjoy a close relationship with former President George H.W. Bush. The group has performed at his birthday celebrations and at the annual George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service ceremonies (pictured above).

Mike Connor '85 and his wife Diana support the Singing Cadets with a unique endowment known as the "Aggie Ring Incentive."

Established in 2005 in an initial amount of $25,000, the Diana and Michael H. Connor '85 Singing Cadet Aggie Ring Endowment funded through The Association of Former Students, provides financial support for qualifying Singing Cadets who are purchasing Aggie Rings.

"A few years before we set up the endowment, one of the Singing Cadets lost his Aggie Ring," said Mike Connor, a Singing Cadet from 1983 to 1985. "Because he could not afford a replacement, the other guys in the group pooled their money and bought him a new one. We were inspired by that selfless act of giving and wanted to set up a mechanism to remove future financial barriers to a Singing Cadet getting his Aggie Ring."

The endowment has covered 41 Singing Cadet rings since 2005. The Connors have added to their initial endowment and a provision in their bequest further promises to cover the cost of 12 ring supplements per year.

Other donors, like Thomas and Beverly Rogers, see the virtue in honoring an organization's leader. Through a $25,000 gift to the Memorial Student Center Renovation and Expansion Project, they chose to name the choral activities director's office the "Jeannie and David Kipp Choral Activities Director's Office" in honor of Kipp and his wife.

"Our sons, Robert '12 and John '15, have had the privilege of participating in this organization, and we thought it important to recognize David Kipp's leadership and his ability to shape young men of grace and integrity," Beverly Rogers said. "This organization is part of Texas A&M's backbone, and we have the responsibility to give back."

Gifts like these show a heartfelt desire to support a student organization that is the perfect example of the "other" education—teaching leadership, responsibility, dedication, valuable social skills and self-confidence.

Most important, the organization gives its members a voice that sounds above the noise of thousands of students.

And Shelnutt, who spent two dollars on an ashtray, says he's never received a better return on his investment.

—BY DUNAE CRENWELGE '14

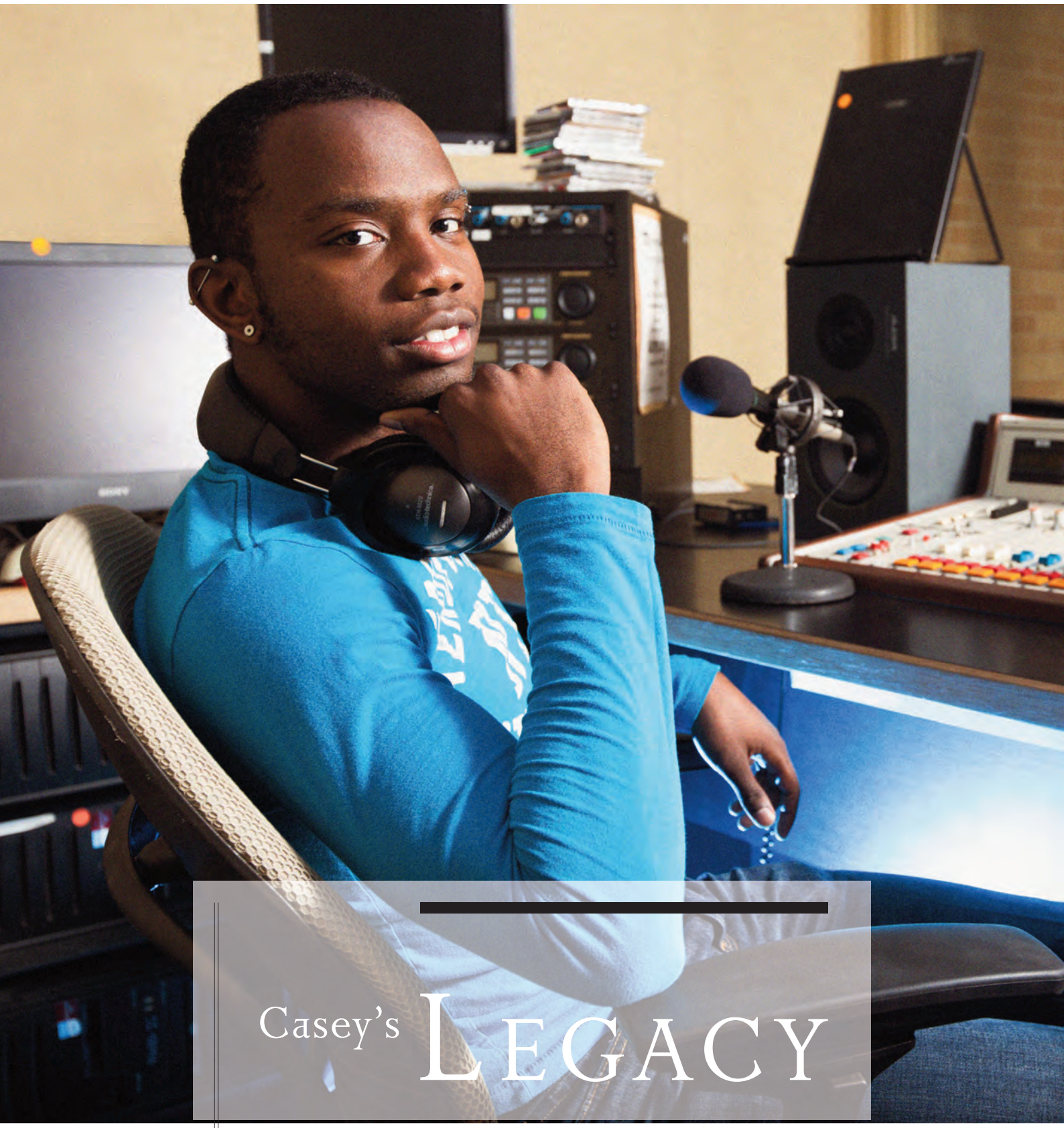
To learn how you can support the Singing Cadets, visit singingcadets.tamu.edu or contact:

Cindy Munson '99
Director of Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 862-7231
c-munson@tamu.edu

To make a gift online, visit give.am/SupportSingingCadets.

See what makes this group the voice of Aggieland by scanning this code with your smartphone or visiting give.am/SingingCadets.

The first to attend college in his family, DeAndre Ward '14 is one of more than 2,000 Regents' Scholars enrolled at Texas A&M. Outside of studying mechanical engineering, Ward also hosts a weekly show called Limit Break on KANM student radio.



Casey's LEGACY

A TEXAS A&M COUPLE MEMORIALIZES THEIR BABY DAUGHTER WITH A LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS.

When Texas A&M University junior DeAndre Ward '14 graduates, he'd like to find a career in materials production, testing or research.

Such a goal is none too shabby for any Texas A&M engineering major. But it's especially impressive considering Ward is the first in his family to attend college.

"My mom and dad—really everybody—are pretty proud," said Ward, a Houston native. "They're especially proud not only that I'm studying engineering, but that I'm going to a prestigious school like Texas A&M."

Ward is one of some 2,000 Regents' Scholars enrolled at Texas A&M. His scholarship was created from an endowed gift by Lea '95 and Loftus '93 Fitzwater III.

Ward's mother is an administrative assistant and his father is a police officer. Although they did not have the opportunity to attend college themselves, they always encouraged their son to do so. Ward was a good student in high school and he, too, believed college was in his future.

Particularly adept at math and science, he decided to major in engineering, but entered Texas A&M unsure which engineering discipline to pursue. After taking a materials science class his sophomore year, he determined that mechanical engineering was the place for him.

Involvement with Texas A&M's AggieSat Lab—a program housed within the Department of Aerospace Engineering—is giving

Ward a taste of what a mechanical engineering career might entail. AggieSat students spend several years building a functioning satellite that will be launched upon completion. Ward's work ensures the satellite's design and structure is statically sound.

Ward also hosts a weekly show called Limit Break on KANM student radio and works at The Corner Bar and Grill in College Station's Northgate district.

A Twofold Gift

When you ask Lea '95 and Loftus '93 Fitzwater about their recollections of Texas A&M during the 1990s, the word "bonfire" comes up a lot—a whole lot.

As an Aggie Bonfire crew chief, Loftus Fitzwater's job entailed spreading enthusiasm and involvement for the annual event. His dormitory, Walton Hall, was a designated "load dorm," meaning residents had the unenviable task of heaving cut logs onto trucks.

To Lea Fitzwater, Bonfire encompassed the Aggie spirit, bringing together students as one big family. Among her fondest memories of Texas A&M is meeting big groups at Sbisa Dining Hall before going off to cut trees.

It was through these Bonfire connections that Lea Kahanek, a biology major, and Loftus Fitzwater, a mechanical engineering major, eventually met. Their first date was at the legendary Dixie Chicken.

Soon after he graduated, Loftus Fitzwater switched career goals and decided to pursue a master's degree in business administration at The University of Texas at Austin. His career in the investment field eventually lured the couple to Chicago.

After achieving some business success, the Fitzwaters had a heartfelt discussion about how they could help someone who "needed a leg up." Going to Texas A&M, they agreed, had ultimately determined the course of their lives.

As Loftus Fitzwater explained: "It's very easy to write a check, but what we really wanted to do was to write that check and feel good in knowing we were going to help somebody take that next step. We wanted to help students who couldn't financially get to that next level so that when they graduate, the world is their oyster. Higher education really opens those doors that can change a life."

Lea Fitzwater added, "We wanted our gift to actually get someone to college—not just help them pay for it."

With help from the Texas A&M Foundation, the Fitzwaters found a Texas A&M scholarship program that fit the bill: the Regents' Scholars Program.

Created in 2003, the Regents' Scholars Program was established by Dr. Robert Gates, then president of Texas A&M, and funded through the university's operating budget. When the scholarship funding method changed from single scholarships to endowments, fundraising for the program was transferred to the Texas A&M Foundation. During the past decade, nearly 6,000 students, including Ward, have achieved their dreams of attending Texas A&M thanks to the program.

Regents' Scholarships are designed for students who not only will become the first in their families to receive college degrees, but whose total annual family income is less than $40,000. Roughly 600 new Aggies each year are awarded the four-year scholarship, which varies in amount. Ward receives about $5,000 a year through the scholarship.

An endowed Regents' Scholarship can be created with an outright gift—or a planned gift—of $100,000. Each scholarship supports one student for four

When Lea '95 and Loftus '93 Fitzwater III lost their baby daughter in 2006, the couple didn't forget the dreams they once had for her. To perpetuate her memory, they established the Casey Fitzwater Endowed Regents' Scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation.

years, and then begins again with a new student. Because it is endowed, the scholarship will support Texas A&M students forever.

The Fitzwaters had another personal reason for creating a Regents' Scholarship endowment. In 2006, they were eagerly awaiting the arrival of a baby girl. Shortly before the due date, they learned the heartbreaking news that baby Casey had not made it. As part of the healing process, they felt compelled to make some kind of significant contribution in her memory.

"If you think about it," said Loftus Fitzwater, "we would have been sending her to school anyway, just like we will our two sons. By establishing this endowment, we're spending the money we would have spent on Casey's education, but on a perpetual basis."

Designed For Success

Along with financial assistance, Regents' Scholars are provided the kind of academic and social assistance vital to the success of a first-generation college student. During their freshman year, the scholars participate in an academic success program as determined by their college. Engineering students, like Ward, participate in the Engineering Success Program and live in the Engineering Living-Learning Community (LLC) in Mosher Hall.

By living in an LLC, Ward was not only clustered with other engineering students, but was offered opportunities to attend seminars on personal development; visit with upper-division engineering students who served as resident advisers, peer-mentors and tutors; interact with engineering faculty; and network with members of the local engineering community.

The relationships he established with the engineering peer-mentors, Ward said, were valuable, especially in terms of learning how to study and preparing for finals. "That transition from high school to college can be kind of rough," he said.

With all of the financial, academic and social support offered by the Regents' Scholars Program, the retention rate of these students is an impressive 90 percent.

Financial Reality

Looking back, Ward recalls he knew he wanted to come to Texas A&M. But he seriously considered other colleges, as well, not knowing whether he could afford Texas A&M's price tag.

The Casey Fitzwater Endowed Regents' Scholarship changed all that.

"It's one thing to want to go to A&M," Ward said, "but it's another thing when you know you're going to get some help along the way."

—BY KARA BOUNDS SOCOL

For more information about how you can create an endowed Regents' Scholarship, contact:

Marcy Ullmann '86
Manager of Scholarship Programs
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161
m-ullmann@tamu.edu

Regents' Scholarship DONORS

Thanks to the generous donors who have either fully funded or established a planned gift to fund an Endowed Regents' Scholarship.*

CAROL AND MELVIN BENTLEY SR. '54 FAMILY
Dallas, Texas

PEGGY AND FRANK BOGGUS '49
Harlingen, Texas

DALLAS A&M CLUB
Dallas, Texas

JUDY AND BILL ECHOLS '76
Incline Village, Nevada

LEA '95 AND LOFTUS '93 FITZWATER III
—in memory of Casey Fitzwater
Sugarland, Texas

HOUSTON A&M CLUB
Houston, Texas

HYGEIA FOUNDATION
Mr. H. Lee Richards '56
Harlingen, Texas

JAY KREGEL '89
—in honor of Richard & Ethel Kregel
Houston, Texas

DAVID LINGLE '94
Pearland, Texas

NINA AND CARL MOORE '51
Portland, Oregon

NORMA & LARRY MORSE '70
Olathe, Kansas

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SUSAN AND TONY PELLETIER '75
Magnolia, Texas

JIM '81 AND CHRISTINA '82 TROLINGER
Portland, Oregon

JOHN WARD '70
Coldspring, Texas

PATSY AND JOHN YANTIS '53
San Antonio, Texas

**If you have a planned gift to fund a Regents' Scholarship and your name isn't listed, please contact Glenn Pittsford at (800) 392-3310.*

PHILANTHROPY'S FINEST

2013 Sterling C. Evans Medal Recipients

RETA AND HAROLD J. "BILL" HAYNES '46

Some of Reta Haynes' fondest memories are of the times she and her late husband, Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46, spent at Texas A&M University.

"It was a meaningful, fun time in our lives," she said. "Bill had volunteered to serve in World War II and then returned to A&M on the GI Bill, which provided a monthly stipend that was just enough to live on. We got married in 1945 and I joined him in College Station, where we set up housekeeping in one of the Quonset huts provided for married veterans."

As they began their 64-year marriage, Haynes recalled, they became part of the Aggie community and experienced "the spirit" she still feels every time she visits the campus.

She and Bill moved 25 or more times as he advanced to president, chairman and chief executive officer of Standard Oil Company of California (now Chevron Corp.). The couple raised three daughters, and their extended family now includes six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. She currently resides in San Rafael, Calif.

"Bill and I agreed early on in our marriage that we should give whatever we could to help others in need, even when we had very little ourselves. We started making small charitable gifts, some as small as $5, to various organizations," said Haynes.

Haynes, who grew up in Fort Worth, attended Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Miss., and Texas Christian University before leaving college to marry. She and her husband shared a love of Texas A&M and agreed that "educating our youth is important to our country's future."

In previous *Spirit* magazine interviews, Bill Haynes attributed his success in part to the education and discipline he received at Texas A&M and in the U.S. Naval Air Corps.

In addition to his 34-year career with Standard Oil Company of California, he served on the boards of Bechtel Group Inc., Fremont Group, Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and many others.

Reta and Bill Haynes on their wedding day in 1945.

A 40-Year Tradition of Giving

The couple has been giving to Texas A&M University for more than 40 years.

In 1972, Bill Haynes was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus, and he also is a Distinguished Graduate of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering, and a Dwight Look College of Engineering Outstanding Alumnus. Three years later,

At a Feb. 21 dinner at the Jon L. Hagler Center on campus, the Texas A&M Foundation awarded Reta Haynes (above) and her late husband Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46 the 2013 Sterling C. Evans Medal, the organization's highest philanthropic honor. Reta Haynes has continued her family's tradition of giving to Texas A&M even after her husband's death in 2009.

friends raised more than $3.6 million to endow the Harold J. Haynes Dean's Chair in Engineering.

After her husband died in 2009, Reta Haynes has continued giving to Texas A&M.

She endowed the Reta Haynes Learning Community with gifts that are "among the largest and most important received by the College of Education and Human Development," said Dean Doug Palmer. The learning community endowment aids recruitment and retention of students planning education careers and provides one-on-one support for 60 to 80 transfer students.

Patti and Weldon Kruger at the Ring Dance in 1953.

Recognizing the importance of supporting outstanding faculty who are committed to the development of students and quality instructional programs, Haynes also endowed two faculty fellowships in the College of Education and Human Development.

Haynes honored her husband by endowing 13 Corps 21 Scholarships. Each provides $16,000 to $20,000 over four years to a cadet demonstrating superior academic achievement and leadership.

Haynes also added to the Haynes Fellowships in Civil Engineering, which she and her husband established in 2006, bringing the endowment total to more than $1 million. The fellowships enable the department to make highly competitive offers to attract the best graduate students. So far, more than 54 Haynes fellowships, ranging from $2,000 to $9,000 per year, have been awarded to civil and ocean engineering graduate students.

In addition, Haynes established the Reta Haynes Singing Cadet Endowment Fund. The endowment supports activities and future development of the group Mrs. Haynes calls "wonderful ambassadors for Texas A&M."

The Reta and Bill Haynes '46 Coastal Engineering Laboratory in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering and The Association of Former Students' Haynes Ring Plaza also acknowledge the couples' generosity.

Scholarly Support

In another act of selflessness, Reta Haynes recently completed arrangements for an estate gift that will endow three to four new scholarships every year.

"It is among the biggest scholarship commitments received by Texas A&M," said Carl Jaedicke '73, Texas A&M Foundation vice president for principal gifts.

The endowment, which will support 12 or more Haynes Scholars at a time, is one of only a few that cover the entire cost of attending Texas A&M.

Haynes said she was motivated to fund the estate gift because she continues to be impressed with the quality and character of Texas A&M students.

"They are determined to be teachers, leaders and examples to others as they live their lives," she said. "It means so much to help these young Aggies."

A Surprise Award

During a telephone call to Reta Haynes in November 2012, Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67 and Foundation Trustee John Bethancourt '74 surprised her with news that she and her late husband would receive the Evans Medal.

"You richly deserve this honor for your decades of philanthropy and for this incredible planned gift that will establish a generous scholarship program," said Davis.

Haynes was overwhelmed and grateful. "Bill and I have always felt it was important to give back and to make the world a better place than we found it."

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2013 Sterling C. Evans Medal Recipients

PATTI AND WELDON D. KRUGER '53

For almost 50 years, Weldon Kruger '53 has felt indebted to Texas A&M University. A retired ExxonMobil senior executive, he grew up in Brenham and dreamed of attending Texas A&M but never thought it would be possible. His father had gone broke farming, and his family couldn't afford the tuition.

"I never thought we were poor, but looking back, I guess we were," recalled the former board chairman of both The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M Foundation.

Patti and Weldon Kruger '53 were one of two couples honored Feb. 21 by the Texas A&M Foundation trustees with the Sterling C. Evans Medal for their exceptional giving and service to Texas A&M University. In a soft-spoken and humble acceptance speech, Weldon Kruger credited an Opportunity Award as "the scholarship that changed my life," and the Corps of Cadets for the discipline that led to his leadership and success in business.

LIFELONG DEVOTION

Evans Medal recipients exhibit exemplary philanthropy benefiting the university through contributions and volunteer leadership. Other qualifications include a lifelong devotion to Texas A&M University, motivation of others to support the university, and a personal history of integrity and excellence.

The medal's Class of 1921 namesake was a man whose support and leadership of Texas A&M was instrumental in raising the university to international prominence.

Sterling C. Evans '21

Along with a successful agricultural career, he was a founding trustee of the Texas A&M Foundation, a trustee for The Association of Former Students Loan Fund and the Texas A&M Research Foundation, and president of the Texas A&M Board of Directors (now Board of Regents).

With his wife Catherine, Evans donated more than $10 million—including their entire estate—to the Texas A&M Foundation, primarily in support of the Texas A&M library, which bears his name.

To watch a video about Sterling C. Evans '21, scan this code with your smartphone or visit give.am/EvansMedal2013.

Attending Texas A&M football games might have been the closest he came to enrolling if it weren't for a high school teacher, an Aggie, who encouraged him to apply for a scholarship.

A Life-Changing Offer

Kruger received an Opportunity Award funded by famed Dallas-area oilman Toddie Lee Wynne. The scholarship, Kruger said, provided about half of his college expenses. He worked as a roughneck for two summers on drilling rigs in Kaufman and Devine to gain oil field experience and to earn money for the remaining expenses.

"That scholarship changed my life," said Kruger. He credits the Corps of Cadets, which he commanded during his senior year, with instilling discipline, leadership and "exposing me to a lot of people and situations that helped me later in life." The bachelor's and master's degrees in petroleum engineering that he earned in 1953 and 1954 provided the foundation for his 30-year Exxon Mobil career. Most important, though, he met his wife, Patti, at Texas A&M.

While a student at McKinney High School, Patti attended Texas A&M's Freshman Ball in 1952, where she was selected Sweetheart. They met the next day at the Memorial Student Center (MSC), which had opened the previous year. Kruger said he took one look and knew "I had to have a date with her." A cadet from McKinney, where Patti grew up, introduced them.

They dated for a few years. After graduating, Kruger accepted a commission in the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to the Mineral Wells airbase, where he worked with Army Corps of Engineers troops training for the construction of landing strips for B-52s. After his two-year commitment ended in 1956, he joined Humble Oil and Refining Co. (now ExxonMobil) in Houston. Patti graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with an English degree in 1956. She went to work for Hunt Oil Co. in Dallas, where she was surrounded by Aggie engineers who reminded her of Kruger. She wrote to him, and they began dating again. They married in 1957 and had two sons.

Kruger served as president of Esso Middle East and corporate vice president for natural gas. He was instrumental in negotiating exploration rights and crude oil prices with Middle Eastern countries. He served on the boards of 10 companies, including the Arabian American Oil Co. (Aramco) and Iraq Petroleum Co. Kruger retired from ExxonMobil in 1986.

Repaying Texas A&M with Volunteer Service

After returning to College Station, the Krugers became dedicated Texas A&M volunteers. Patti served on the board of the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library, while Weldon accepted many leadership roles. He served on and chaired The Association of Former Students Board of Directors and the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees. While a trustee, he helped guide development of the university's *Vision 2020* initiative and of the Foundation's $1.5 billion *One Spirit One Vision* fundraising campaign.

A member of the International Advisory Board Executive Committee, Kruger advises the university on international program development.

"Weldon has enormous understanding of the Middle East and has had a tremendous impact on Texas A&M's international programs preparing graduates for careers in our global community," said International Advisory Board Chairman Herbert Goodman of Houston. "He has served on the board since it started (in 1992), helped establish the Academy of Future International Leaders (AFIL), and provided insight on business in the Middle East to campus leaders who negotiated the formation of Texas A&M's Qatar campus."

For the past 12 years, Kruger has mentored more than 20 students selected to participate in the AFIL. He also is a member of the Center for International Business Studies Advisory Board in the Mays Business School.

A member of the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor, he serves on the Corps of Cadets Board of Visitors and Development Council. Named a Distinguished Alumnus in 1996, he previously served on the Aggie Spirit Development Council for Student Affairs and on the MSC Development Committee. He has received the College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award and was named to the Department of Petroleum Engineering Academy of Distinguished Graduates.

Generous Benefactors

The Krugers are not only giving of their time. They also rank among the university's most generous contributors, as acknowledged by their membership in the A&M Legacy Society.

They began giving $5 to $10 to The Association of Former Students soon after graduation. Many of their gifts were enhanced by ExxonMobil's generous 3-to-1 matching gift program. Under the program, ExxonMobil gives $3 for every $1 contributed by employees or retirees, matching up to $7,500 given per individual in each calendar year.

The Krugers have supported the Texas A&M Foundation, the Corps of Cadets, the Sterling C. Evans Library, the Kruger National Merit Scholar Fund, the Dwight Look College of Engineering, the President's Endowed Scholarship and Endowed Opportunity Awards. They are Pillar Donors of the Jon L. Hagler Center and have funded two General Rudder Corps Scholarships, two Sul Ross Scholarships, and a lead gift to the Global Study Scholarship program, which to-date has allowed five students to participate in study abroad.

In 2007, the Krugers gave their largest gift—Fayette and Colorado county ranch land they had purchased as an investment six years earlier. The Texas A&M Foundation sold the land to provide major support for the MSC renovation and expansion and to create two endowments: the Patti and Weldon D. Kruger '53 Director's Endowment for the Corps of Cadets Leadership Excellence Program and the Patti and Weldon D. Kruger '53 Aggie Spirit Endowment to benefit students and organizations within the Division of Student Affairs.

Dr. Richard Cummins, director of the Corps of Cadets Leadership Excellence Program, said Kruger gave input in developing the leadership curriculum, which targets the 55 percent of junior and senior cadets who do not intend to accept a military commission. About 550 students take advantage each semester of four courses that prepare them for leadership roles in nonprofits, government service or private industry.

Recognizing Philanthropy

In November 2012 when the Krugers arrived at the Hagler Center, Foundation Board Chairman Richard Kardys '67, Foundation President Ed Davis '67, and Foundation employees surprised them with news that they had been selected to receive the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees 2013 Sterling C. Evans Medal.

Weldon Kruger, who served on the Foundation's board when it created the award said, "I'm aware of the caliber of people who have received this award, and it's pretty hard to believe we've been selected." Texas A&M, added Patti, "has really enriched our lives."

—BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

View photos from the 2013 Evans Medal dinner at give.am/2013EvansMedal.

Evans Medal
RECIPIENTS

1998
Sterling C. Evans '21
William C. McCord '49

2000
John H. Lindsey '44

2001
Leslie L. Appelt '41

2002
H. R. "Bum" Bright '43

2004
Minnie Belle Heep
Herman F. Heep '20

2005
Jon L. Hagler '58

2006
George P. Mitchell '40

2008
H. B. "Bartell" Zachry Jr. '54

2010
L. Lowry Mays '57

2011
Jack E. Brown '46
James K. B. "Jim" Nelson '49

2012
Dan A. Hughes '51
Dudley J. Hughes '51
Nancy Terry
Howard Terry

2013
Reta Haynes
Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46
Patti Kruger
Weldon D. Kruger '53

Opportunity

Making Safety Second Nature

On Oct. 23, 1989, a massive explosion ripped through a chemical plant in Houston. The initial blast registered 3.5 on the Richter scale, and the conflagration took 10 hours to bring under control. Twenty-three employees were killed, including my wife Mary Kay, who was a chemical engineer and operations superintendent.

World-renowned process safety expert Dr. M. Sam Mannan has directed Texas A&M's Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center since its inception 15 years ago. Mannan is a Regents Professor and holder of the T. Michael O'Connor Chair I in the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering.

In addition to the loss of life and injuries, the explosion caused $715.5 million worth of damage plus an additional business disruption loss estimated at $700 million.

Mary Kay's Legacy

Mary Kay earned a chemical engineering degree from the University of Missouri–Columbia and an MBA from the University of Houston–Clear Lake. I also have a chemical engineering degree from the University of Missouri–Rolla and worked for M.W. Kellogg for 15 years in heat transfer design. But neither Mary Kay nor I had ever received any formal training in chemical process safety.

While Mary Kay's life was cut short, I wanted her legacy to live on. What better way to preserve her memory than to try to prevent similar deadly accidents in the future with funds from the settlement? I wrote to several universities to solicit ideas for how we might improve the situation. Some did not respond; others submitted modest proposals. But only Texas A&M University presented a comprehensive plan with a meaningful solution to the process safety deficit in the petrochemical industry.

Many say that Aggies have a can-do attitude. But what I quickly observed among the Texas A&M team was a will-do attitude, and the project evolved at a rapid pace. Its mission: to be an international leader in minimizing losses within industry through safer processes, management, equipment and procedures.

A Vision Takes Shape

Under the expert direction of Dr. M. Sam Mannan, the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center has grown during the past 15 years from a nebulous idea to the world's leading academic center for process safety. It has accomplished this by providing education, training, service, expertise and research.

Education. Every Texas A&M chemical engineering student is required to take the Process Safety Engineering course, and students may now earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in safety engineering through our Chemical Engineering Department. Students can earn safety engineering certificates and the university also offers safety practice certificates for industry personnel. In 2012, five students enrolled in our new distance education program,

In 1989, Michael O'Connor's wife was killed in a chemical plant explosion. With settlement funds, he helped establish the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center at Texas A&M University—now the world's leading academic center for process safety.

which now has a waiting list of more than 200 students. The center also directs a robust internship program through collaboration with corporate partners, such as Shell.

Training. Through 58 different continuing education courses, most of which are conducted at a company's facility, the center has trained more than 3,300 industry personnel and has issued 125 safety practice certificates. It also creates and tailors specialty courses based on a company's needs.

Service. The center hosts an annual process safety symposium attracting more than 550 participants from around the world.

Expertise. A worldwide team of process safety engineering experts at the center includes faculty fellows and research associates. Our faculty, students and staff partner with experts from universities, agencies and institutes around the world. Twenty-five corporate members of our Process Safety Center Consortium also contribute to this growing knowledge base.

Research. Faculty and students at the center are exploring process safety topics in more than 10 major research areas, from the culture of safety to reactive chemicals, facility layout and resilient engineering design. Recent projects include the investigation of specific incidents, Liquid Natural Gas research and development of computer-based training modules.

Success Breeds Demand

The need for these programs is outpacing the center's capacity, and demand by industry for our students far exceeds supply. One major oil company has expressed a desire to hire all of our graduates. Recent events further illustrate the dire need for process safety on offshore drilling rigs, nuclear facilities, spacecraft, levee systems and other areas.

To maintain momentum and to meet demand, the center clearly must expand in the area of chemical process safety and also in the field of engineered systems in general. Continued expansion must begin with additional private support for our faculty and graduate students through endowed chairs, professorships and fellowships. At this time I am the only individual donor that is providing funds for a faculty chair, which is held by Dr. Mannan, our center director and its only tenured professor. Recruiting and retaining process safety experts from around the world depends on additional private support.

The center is presently housed in the Jack E. Brown Engineering Building, which can no longer accommodate its rapid growth. To ensure its continuity, we envision a new, dedicated facility on Texas A&M's West Campus to accommodate classrooms, offices, auditoriums, laboratories, meeting spaces, distance learning facilities, a library and video production studios. While university and center funds may cover a portion of construction costs, private donations will be vital to such an endeavor.

It has been my pleasure to not only support the center financially but to participate in day-to-day activities. I have managed projects, written journal articles, mentored students and participated in its industry lead steering committee. It has been a gratifying experience through which I can see directly the development of our students and their research.

I will never regret choosing Texas A&M as the home of a place that will forever memorialize Mary Kay. The growth and success of the center has far exceeded my original vision, and Texas A&M clearly has become a worldwide leader in process safety. With your help we can achieve our vision of making process safety second nature, which will result in fewer incidents like the one that took my wife's life.

—BY T. MICHAEL O'CONNOR

For information about how you can support the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, visit psc.tamu.edu or contact:

Thadd Hargett '99
Director of Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 458-1299
t-hargett@tamu.edu

@Foundation

A&M Legacy Society Celebrates 25 Years

The Texas A&M Foundation in March honored members of the A&M Legacy Society, a group composed of individuals, corporations and organizations who have donated $100,000 or more in support of the university or made provisions in their estate plans for gifts to support Texas A&M. The events celebrated the 25th anniversary of the prestigious group.

The two-day A&M Legacy Society celebration included an evening gala, a breakfast, college tours and luncheon. Nearly 600 people attended the gala in the Memorial Student Center.

To see photos from the event, visit give.am/LegacySociety2013.

A group of Maroon Coats sing the Aggie War Hymn during the A&M Legacy Society gala in March. The sixth class of Maroon Coats, student ambassadors for the Foundation, was inducted during the event.

Employees Give Back

Each year the Texas A&M Foundation participates in a United Way campaign to give back to the Brazos Valley community. For the third year in a row, 100 percent of Foundation employees participated, raising more than $11,000.

Foundation President Ed Davis '67 recognized the achievement by allowing employees to wear blue jeans every Friday through the end of 2012.

Foundation teams also competed to raise food donations for the Brazos Valley Food Bank's Food for Families drive, bringing in more than 4,000 non-perishable food items for families in need. Other employees, including the Maroon Coats, delivered, sorted and packed food during the annual drive.

Fundraising Staff Changes

Carl Jaedicke '73 has been promoted to vice president for principal gifts. In his new role, Jaedicke is responsible for managing the Foundation's principal gift process, ensuring a strategic approach to cultivation and solicitation of the university's largest gifts and assuring these gifts are celebrated in a way that will inspire future support. Jaedicke has been integral to the Foundation's development staff since his hire in 1986, representing the Dwight Look College of Engineering

Carl Jaedicke '73

Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Kardys '67 presents Brian Bishop '91 (left) and Greg Galliher the 2013 Foundation Trustees' Award at a January luncheon in the Jon L. Hagler Center.

Trustees Honor Galliher and Bishop

Brian Bishop '91, senior director of development, and Greg Galliher, building manager and real estate administrator, received the 2013 Texas A&M Foundation Trustees' Awards

The awards honor Texas A&M Foundation employees who exemplify the Foundation's spirit and work to promote and execute the organization's priorities. Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Kardys '67 presented the honorees with a plaque and $500 at a staff meeting in February.

Bishop, who joined the Foundation in 2005, has worked in fundraising for the Office of Planned Giving and Corps of Cadets. In March he was promoted to senior director of development for Mays Business School. "This award is the reflection of a lot of hard work by many people at the Foundation and the commitment of many donors who believe in the values and mission of the Corps of Cadets," Bishop said.

Galliher, an employee for 13 years, assists in the sale of donated properties through real estate brokers. He also coordinates the maintenance of the Hagler Center, and evaluates and maintains proper insurance coverage on the building, its contents and equipment. "This honor was quite a surprise," Galliher said. "It's humbling for me, a guy who spends most of his time working behind the scenes, to even be considered for the award. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with, or better cause to work towards."

before advancing to management positions.

David Hicks '75

David Hicks '75 has been promoted to assistant vice president for college programs. In his new role, he is responsible for establishing priorities, strategies and tactics for the identification, qualification and solicitation of prospects. He will also provide vision and direction for all aspects of major gift fundraising programs and will supervise college and other unit-based development personnel. Hicks joined the Foundation in 1998 and previously served in development positions for Mays Business School.

Diane Barron '81 was named director of development for mechanical engineering in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. She previously worked in development for the College of Geosciences. In her new role, Barron will continue to facilitate gifts to the Berg-Hughes Center. She has been with the Foundation since 2006.

Diane Barron '81

Jack Falks '85 joined the Foundation in October as director of development for the College of Geosciences. Falks began his career at Texas A&M in the Office of Admissions and then held various positions in sales and finance—most recently as senior regional manager of employer development at Corinthian Colleges Inc.

Jack Falks '85

Don Birkelbach '70 was named senior regional director of major gifts in December, responsible for the Houston regional territory. Birkelbach has been with the Foundation since 2001 and previously served in development roles in engineering and science.

Don Birkelbach '70

True Brown '04 joined the Foundation in January as assistant director of development for the College of Liberal Arts. Brown worked for the 12th Man Foundation for nine years, most recently serving as associate vice president of print media.

True Brown '04

Brian Bishop '91 was named senior director of development for Mays Business School. Since joining the Foundation in 2005, he has worked as a gift planning officer and most recently as the development director for the Corps of Cadets.

Brian Bishop '91

Cara Milligan '08 was named director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She joined the Foundation in 2010 and previously served as assistant director of development for Mays Business School.

Cara Milligan '08

After convincing her Red Raider father that Texas A&M was the place for her, Maegan Baker '14 flourished in Aggieland, participating in Breathe Hope—a student group that raises awareness and research funds for people with cystic fibrosis.

Postscript

Finding My Niche in Aggieland

I was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas—the dreaded "Raiderland." My father, David Carl Ladd, is a 1990 Texas Tech graduate. He's a true Red Raider and naturally assumed I was joking when I decided to attend Texas A&M University. No other university I visited (Tech and t.u. included) compared. Though it proved to be a true test of my resolve, I mustered what Aggie spirit I had and convinced him that Texas A&M was the place for me.

An Aggie Takes Shape

My first day of classes at Texas A&M in fall 2011 was truly terrifying. Though I had located all my classrooms during Gig 'em Week, everything morphed as both Old Army and fish swarmed the campus. Somehow I survived my first day and eventually found time to explore my interests.

It's true what they say about "the other education" at Texas A&M: Anyone, regardless of their interests, can find a student organization with which they can identify and contribute. It wasn't long before I discovered Breathe Hope, a student group that raises awareness and research funds for people with cystic fibrosis (CF) and their families in conjunction with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Because my younger sister Amanda has cystic fibrosis, Breathe Hope is a perfect fit for me. Her condition is so severe that it has required two double-lung transplants, but I'm happy to report that Amanda is doing well and pursuing her love of theater.

The organization was founded in 2006 by Elizabeth Widener '08 in memory of her older sister Lindsay Kirkland Widener '05 and all Aggies affected by CF. With funds from the annual Great Strides 5K fundraiser, members visit the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston two to four times a year to hang out with kids who have CF. Without the efforts of groups like Breathe Hope, my sister's capability and plan to graduate from high school would be seriously limited.

Academics and Beyond

While all that takes place around campus makes Aggieland unique, let's face it: I am here to get a degree. My studies in English are essential to my dream of writing children's literature, novels and plays. I am the proud recipient of a Foundation Excellence Award (funded by the Simpson Trust) and the Sam Houston Sanders Endowed Scholarship—both scholarships are managed by the Texas A&M Foundation. Without these scholarships and several grants, attending Texas A&M would have been difficult if not impossible.

Like many Aggies, my true passion is not entirely academic. I am also focused on creating a meaningful family life. In June 2012, I married my best friend and fellow Aggie David W. Baker '14. Being active, full-time undergraduate students and nurturing a new marriage is not without its challenges. But with the right attitudes, good communication and shared cooking and cleaning duties, we're off to a strong start. It's important to us that both our academic and extracurricular experiences cultivate our values and strengthen us as Aggies and as a couple.

Dare to Make a Difference

When I look into the future beyond what still feels to me like a veil of uncertainty and chance, I hope to achieve a simple, contented life, but one that holds great meaning. It's a life in which I will dare to make the kind of difference that touches the hearts of those around me. To me, this is what college is about: changing perceptions and building confidence while learning to lead and serve others.

To top it off, my Red Raider Dad is now one of my most loyal supporters for choosing Texas A&M.

Dr. George Klett '56, my storytelling seminar professor, describes life in Aggieland best: "Every college experience is unique, but you won't find a college experience as unique as Texas A&M."

—BY MAEGAN RASHAE BAKER '14

Contact

Get in touch with the Texas A&M Foundation.

401 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840-2811
Toll-free: (800) 392-3310
Phone: (979) 845-8161
Fax: (979) 845-3973
giving.tamu.edu
amfoundation@tamu.edu

giving.tamu.edu/Blog

SPIRIT
giving.tamu.edu/SpiritMagazine

facebook.com/TexasAMFoundation

youtube.com/AggieSpiritAndMind

twitter.com/TXAMFoundation

Executive Staff
Ed Davis '67, President
Jim Palincsar, Senior Vice President for Development
Doyle Thompson, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Liska Lusk, Vice President & General Counsel
Janet Handley '76, Vice President for Investments
Kathy McCoy '80, Director of Marketing

Development Staff
Carl Jaedicke '73
Vice President for Principal Gifts
c-jaedicke@tamu.edu
(979) 845-6551

David Hicks '75
Assistant Vice President for College Programs
david-hicks@tamu.edu
(979) 845-2904

Mark Klemm '81
Campaign Director
m-klemm@tamu.edu
(979) 845-6537

College Programs

College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Monica Delisa
Assistant Vice President for Development
m-delisa@tamu.edu
(979) 845-9582

Patrick Williams '92
Director of Development
p-williams@tamu.edu
(979) 845-4740

Cara Milligan '08
Director of Development
cara_milligan@tamu.edu
(979) 458-2204

Torii Kapavik '11
Assistant Director of Development
tkapavik@tamu.edu
(979) 862-1247

Jon Rigelsky '02
Assistant Director of Development
j-rigelsky@tamu.edu
(979) 458-7929

College of Architecture
Larry Zuber
Assistant Vice President for Development
l-zuber@tamu.edu
(979) 845-0939

Mays Business School
Brian Bishop '91
Senior Director of Development
bishop@tamu.edu
(979) 862-3615

Jessica McCann '07
Director of Development
j-mccann@tamu.edu
(979) 862-7247

College of Education & Human Development
Steve Blomstedt '83
Senior Director of Development
s-blomstedt@tamu.edu
(979) 847-8655

Dwight Look College of Engineering
Andrew Acker
Senior Director of Development
a-acker@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5113

Department of Chemical Engineering
Thadd Hargett '99
Director of Development
t-hargett@tamu.edu
(979) 458-1299

Departments of Computer Science and Engineering, and Electrical and Computer Engineering
Erin Gage '02
Assistant Director of Development
egage@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5113

Department of Petroleum Engineering
Brady Bullard '95
Director of Development
b-bullard@tamu.edu
(979) 862-4843

Department of Aerospace Engineering
Andrew Acker
Senior Director of Development
a-acker@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5113

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Diane Barron '81
Director of Development
d-barron@tamu.edu
(979) 862-1517

Department of Civil Engineering
Jay Roberts '05
Director of Development
j-roberts@tamu.edu
(979) 862-8044

Departments of Biomedical and Nuclear Engineering
Derek Dictson '00
Director of Development
d-dictson@tamu.edu
(979) 862-1214

Contact

Departments of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution
Andrew Acker
Senior Director of Development
a-acker@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5113

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Shaun Milligan '06
Director of Development
s-milligan@tamu.edu
(409) 741-4030

College of Geosciences
Jack Falks '85
Director of Development
j-falks@tamu.edu
(979) 862-4944

The George Bush School of Government & Public Service
Jerome Rektorik '65
Director of Development
jrektorik@tamu.edu
(979) 458-8035

College of Liberal Arts
Larry Walker II '97
Director of Development
l-walker@tamu.edu
(979) 458-1304

True Brown '04
Assistant Director of Development
truebrown@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5192

College of Science
Michael V. Morelius '98
Director of Development
m-morelius@tamu.edu
(979) 847-9218

Sharon Allen '04
Director of Development
sharonallen@tamu.edu
(979) 458-4393

Student Affairs
Cindy Brown Munson '99
Director of Development
c-munson@tamu.edu
(979) 458-1689

Corps of Cadets
Brian Bishop '91
Senior Director of Development
bishop@tamu.edu
(979) 862-4085

College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
O. J. "Bubba" Woytek DVM '64
Assistant Vice President for Development & Director of Alumni Relations
owoytek@tamu.edu
(979) 845-9043

Guy Sheppard DVM '76
Director of Development
g-sheppard@tamu.edu
(979) 845-9043

Chastity Rodgers
Director of Development
chastity-rodgers@tamu.edu
(979) 845-9043

Private Enterprise Research Center
Jerome Rektorik '65
Director of Development
jrektorik@tamu.edu
(979) 458-8035

Corporate & Foundation Relations
Jim Keller '63
Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations
jimkeller@tamu.edu
(979) 845-6227

Al Pulliam '87
Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations
apulliam@tamu.edu
(979) 845-6023

Office of Gift Planning
Glenn Pittsford '72
Vice President for Gift Planning
g-pittsford@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5493

William Fusselman '95
Senior Gift Planning Officer
w-fusselman@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5680

Mark Browning '88
Gift Planning Officer
m-browning@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7594

Mark Matthews '80
Gift Planning Officer
m-matthews@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5502

Angela Throne '03
Gift Planning Officer
a-throne@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5638

Real Estate Services
Tim Walton '90
Assistant Vice President for Real Estate Services
t-walton@tamu.edu
(979) 845-8026

Regional Major Gifts
David Wilkinson '87
Senior Regional Director of Major Gifts (East Coast)
d-wilkinson@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7609

Don Birkelbach '70
Senior Regional Director of Major Gifts (Gulf Coast)
d-birkelbach@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7560

Matt Jennings '95
Regional Director of Major Gifts (Western States)
m-jennings@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7604

Jody Ford '99
Regional Director of Major Gifts (Central States)
j-ford@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7558

Jennifer Hester '98
Regional Director of Major Gifts (North Texas)
j-hester@tamu.edu
(979) 845-7479

Trust Company
Gina Jett '79
Manager of Trust Operations
g-jett@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5458

Scholarship Programs
Marcy Ullmann '86
Manager of Scholarship Programs
m-ullmann@tamu.edu
(979) 845-6383

Donor Relations
Lynn Harris
Manager of Donor Relations
lynn-harris@tamu.edu
(979) 845-5963

Gift Processing
Ann Lovett '81
Manager of Gift Processing
a-lovett@tamu.edu
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FREE WORKSHOP

A Wealth of Wisdom

According to the National Center for Women and Retirement Research, as many as nine out of 10 women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives. The consequences can financially cripple many women. The numbers speak for themselves:

◊ More than 75 percent of women are widowed at an average age of 56, and one in four of these women are broke within two months of being widowed.

◊ Less than 15 percent of women who are married or living with a significant other feel responsible for planning retirement.

◊ Only 41 percent of women participate in their employer's 401(k) plan.

◊ Eighty-seven percent of poverty stricken elderly Americans are women.

Susan Wommack is one of several speakers returning to the Women, Wealth & Wisdom workshop. Her session on estate planning made a lasting impression on the women who attended the 2012 workshop.

The Texas A&M Foundation aims to empower more women to take control of their finances during its second annual Women, Wealth & Wisdom workshop on May 17.

Speaker Rebecca Miller '83 will share lessons in changing careers, her adventures in financial planning and other humorous tales. Miller earned a degree in meteorology and a graduate certificate in homeland security. For 21 years, she worked as a meteorologist in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The conference also will feature presenters who will share expertise on taxes, investing, Social Security and elder care.

Last year, the Texas A&M Foundation received an overwhelming positive response from more than 140 women who attended this free seminar that is open to all women.

For more information, contact:

Angela Throne '03
Gift Planning Officer
Texas A&M Foundation
(979) 845-8161
a-throne@tamu.edu

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