SPIRIT

DESERT AGGIES

Texas A&M is grooming a new breed of engineers in the Middle Eastern emirate of Qatar

Heartfelt Giving

DOROTHY & ARTIE MCFERRIN '65 AND

DOUG PITCOCK '49 ARE THE 2014

DOUG PITCOCK '49 ARE THE 2014 STERLING C. EVANS MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Room for More Miracles

TATE ANIMAL MOSDITAL SO IT DEMAINS

Heroes on the Quad

AFTER EXPERIENCING ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY SERVICE, THESE VETERANS CHOSE TEXAS A&M'S CORPS OF CADETS



Medalists and the Middle East

f he were with us today, my friend Sterling C. Evans '21 would be honored that three more remarkable Aggies now wear the medal that bears his name. Doug Pitcock '49 and Dorothy and Artie McFerrin '65 have left an extraordinary legacy of service and philanthropy to Texas A&M. Their support and interests range from engineering to athletics to the Corps of Cadets and even early childhood education. They truly represent the best of Texas A&M University and what the Evans Medal is designed to honor. Read more about how they have changed this university on Page 36.

Two of the attendees at our Feb. 19 Evans Medal ceremony were recipients last year, Patty and Weldon Kruger '53. Weldon served as president of Esso Middle East (now ExxonMobil) and was corporate vice president for natural gas. He traveled throughout the Middle East representing the largest U.S.-based petroleum company, interacting with national leaders, executives and ministers.

Coincidentally, you will find an insightful article on Page 30 about Texas A&M's unique relationship with the Middle Eastern independent emirate of Qatar. Shaped like a thumb in the Persian Gulf, Qatar is extraordinarily rich in carbon-based assets—it arguably has the largest supply of natural gas of any country in the world.

However, this absolute monarchy has a unique perspective led by Her Highness Sheika Moza bint Nasser. Through the creation of Education City, she has set a long-term objective to provide educational opportunities to Qatari citizens and other residents of the Middle East. This endeavor's goal is to create and sustain a middle class in the region.

In 2007, while serving as interim president of the university, I had the privilege of attending the opening of Texas A&M's magnificent engineering facility, built by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. We had many opportunities to interact with the students, including an Aggie Ring ceremony, a state dinner hosted by Her Highness and an opera commissioned to commemorate the occasion.

Jo Ann and I also hosted students from Texas A&M at Qatar during their exchange visit to College Station in spring 2007. While our events were perhaps not as sophisticated, we were honored to entertain them at our home with a crawfish boil and good conversation. We also did our best to teach them how to play 42. I discovered that the basic beliefs of these Qatari Aggies were akin to our own Aggie values. Like most young people around the world, they simply want the best for their children, grandchildren and their nation.

The College Station Aggies who traveled to our Qatar campus during that same period gave the students from the Middle East a more-than-adequate dose of Aggie culture, which was warmly welcomed.

My hope is that Texas A&M programs like the one in Qatar will have a salutary effect on relations between the United States and other Middle Eastern countries. What better way to help solve problems in that region than to put to work more Aggie engineers trained at Texas A&M University, either in College Station or Qatar.

Yousef Hussain Kamal, Qatar's economy and finance minister from 1998 to 2013, with Dr. Ed Davis '67, who was Texas A&M's interim president during a 2007 visit to the university's



EDDIE J. DAVIS '67

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION

SPIRIT



Texas A&M's Small Animal Hospital is launching a \$30 million fundraising campaign to expand and upgrade the hospital—the oldest, continually operating veterinary practice in Texas. * p.24

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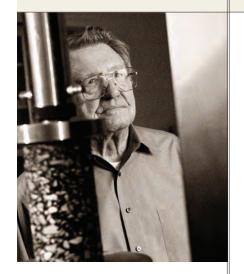
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT QATAR A new series on Texas A&M's global reach opens with our Qatar campus.

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GIVING FROM THEIR HEARTS Introducing the 2014 Sterling C. Evans Medal recipients: Dorothy & Artie McFerrin '65 and Doug Pitcock '49. Established in 2003, Texas A&M University at Qatar offers undergraduate degrees in petroleum, mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering, and a master's degree in chemical engineering.

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Don Saylak '72, professor emeritus of materials science and director of by-product utilization and recycling at Texas A&M University, uses materials science to give old things new life.

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Besides its TV and radio programs, Texas A&M's Educational Broadcasting Services provide on-thejob training for student announcers, operators and production assistants at the stations. » p.42



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COVER PHOTO

Former students like Ahmad Almansoor '10 exemplify the kind of responsible citizens Texas A&M at Qatar cultivates. The Qatari national and mechanical engineering graduate is now a mechanical maintenance engineer at Qatar Petroleum. "An Aggie engineer is different," he said. "It's a way of thinking and approaching problems that sets us apart from other engineers."

TheLegacy

arning a college degree is a feat regardless of where you are in life, but it's an especially eventful accomplishment if you are a single parent balancing your child's welfare with your own education. Charity Breidenbach '02 has experienced this firsthand. In 2000 she enrolled at Texas A&M University to study psychology and to pursue a commissioning program through the U.S. Navy. She made her transition into college life with her 1-year-old daughter Elisabeth (Lizzy).

Although Lizzy did not attend the Becky Gates Children's Center, her mother is helping other parents in Aggieland by committing a portion of her estate to the center, which caters to children of faculty, staff and students. Charity's gift will fund an endowed scholarship to assist full-time, single-parent Texas A&M students with the cost of child care.

"I understand the challenges and financial worries of being a single parent," she said. "I want to pay it forward so that more Aggies can attain their educational and career goals without the concern of whether they will have time to study or if their children are getting proper care."

More than a decade after her Texas A&M graduation, Breidenbach is now a naval lieutenant and aviation maintenance officer in Virginia Beach, Va., and mother to 14-year-old Lizzy and 10-year-old Clay.



Charity's Gift

Breidenbach initially wanted to create a fund for military students like herself, but as she considered how to structure her gift, she discovered a large number of assistance programs for veterans and a scarcity of options for students in the single-parent category.

In Good Company

Breidenbach's gift comes in tandem with a commitment from the namesake of the Becky Gates Children's Center. Becky Gates and her husband, former Texas A&M President Robert Gates, recently included a \$1.5 million planned gift in their estate plans to support the center.

"I continued to work full time after I had my kids, so I was lucky to have a reliable babysitter and a good child care center when they turned 3," Gates said. "If you are a working mom, knowing that your child is healthy and has reliable, competent daycare and schools is so important."

A portion of the Gates' gift will go toward professional development for center employees, such as conferences and workshops that will provide teachers with networking and mentoring opportunities. The funds will also be used to purchase teaching materials, especially in the areas of math and science.

"Being a parent is the scariest thing on earth because you never know if you're doing it right," Breidenbach said. "But helping a fellow Aggie in this way shows them that they have the support of those who came before them. I believe 100 percent in their dream and ability to make a better life for their child."

Breidenbach created a living trust that allows her to plan for the next generation. Her decision to create a planned gift through the Texas A&M Foundation, motivated in part by a breast cancer diagnosis, will help others who struggle to balance parenthood with student life.

"As a breast cancer survivor, I can say with complete confidence that it's never too early to plan. My diagnosis merely spurred me to act on what I'd been meaning to do for some time."

-BY MONIKA BLACKWELL

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.

SPIRIT

Mary Ann Parker, along with two other women from the Bryan-College Station area, went to the United States Supreme Court in 1960 to forge new ground so that women could attend Texas A&M.

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

MEGAN KASPERBAUER Managing Editor

Fall 2013 Spirit magazine



Editor's note: We received numerous letters in response to the fall 2013 issue of Spirit magazine, which marked the 50th anniversary of the admission of women and African-Americans to Texas A&M. We are unable to publish every response in print, but you can read additional letters in our online magazine at giving.tamu.edu/SpiritMagazine.

FORGOTTEN MINORITY

In reviewing the issue of Spirit magazine regarding the article on inclusion, I am deeply disappointed that you did not highlight the accomplishments of a third minority—the physically challenged student. Why is this omitted? Being in a wheelchair is the only reason I could not choose to attend Texas A&M in the early '70s, as there was little access then. As a 12th Man member and season ticket holder, I see evidence suggesting that Texas A&M still needs to make greater strides in the education and acceptance of the physically challenged student. Four able-bodied men, including my grandfather, father and two younger brothers spanning the 1920s to 1980s, are Aggie graduates. How about showcasing the achievements of this overlooked class?

- DAVID THORNTON
Bedford, Texas

FORGING NEW GROUND

Thank you for your article as it relates to the history of women attending Texas A&M; however, I think you missed one of the most interesting and important efforts regarding their admittance.

My mother, Mary Ann Parker, along with two other women from the Bryan-College Station area, went to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1960 to request just such an allowance in Allred v. Heaton, 364 U.S. 517. Attorney John M. Barron worked at no charge on their behalf.



As he states in his argument, based on "equal protection" in the 14th Amendment, women who were penniless should be able to attend a state-supported school. In his appeal, he says that the lower court had misrepresented the women in that it said they were "trying to crash a men's military college." Most important, he said, "Women are not merely sex opposites. They are human beings...persons who must not be discriminated against..."
Mr. Barron was passionate and believed in the cause, as did the three women.

I would like to revere and honor my mother, as well as Margaret E. Allred, Sarah C. Hutto and, most certainly, John Barron for forging new ground. As a result of the pressure brought on by this effort, we note that women were allowed admittance on a limited basis in 1963. Very important to my family was that I attended for a year in 1968.

— CANDY PARKER THOMPSON Dallas, Texas

ALLOWED TO ATTEND

Glad to see a publication highlighting women at Texas A&M. I'm not sure "inclusion" is quite the right word. Technically, maybe, but it never felt that way. "Allowed" is the way it felt to me when in 1970 I was allowed admittance. Even after I graduated in 1972, I was prohibited from entering the ROTC and could only enter the United States Air Force through Officer Training School.

I am proud to be an Aggie. All my life I have admired Texas A&M. My father was an Aggie who interrupted his education to serve in WWII and returned to complete his degree following his muster from the U.S. Army. As one of your featured

Aerial photographs taken of Kyle Field just after completion in 1930-31.

women stated, I too have always felt I could do anything I wanted. However, it has been sad and distressing to have to work so hard due to hard feelings from male students and alumni, and derision, such as the moniker "Maggie," which I never accepted.

Therefore, I am really glad to see Texas A&M touting women's status with this outstanding university. It makes me feel a little more included, and I do appreciate it.

- JEANNE EARLY '72 Lone Star, Texas



Student ID for Charlotte K. Hulen'67

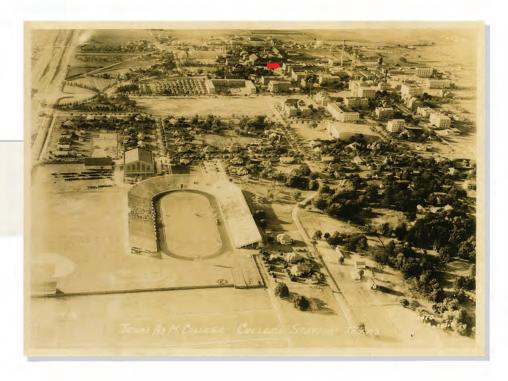
PERFECT PIONEER

Thank you for the article on the 1964 undergraduate coeds! My mother was Charlotte K. Hulen '67. She passed away in 1971 when I was 6 years old. The question mark yearbook picture has always been a source of pride and wonderment to me. My mother was a very creative, enthusiastic and gracious woman, and a perfect pioneer to be one of the first female students at Texas A&M. She and the other first coeds have added greatly to the rich traditions of our school. Many of us would not be Aggies without them!

- KAREN HULEN WADE '86 Sulphur, Louisiana

OUT OF THE DOGHOUSE

Thanks for the good story in *Spirit* on the Reveilles. I was a sophomore in the Aggie Band in '51-'52 when Reveille II was acquired. Two band juniors kept her in their room until an elegant doghouse was



fashioned for her in the college shop. On a trip from the shop to dorm 16, several of us went along to balance the doghouse on the sides of a truck bed. Reveille stayed there no more than one or two nights, but one night a wind storm came up while she was in it and rolled the doghouse up against the dorm. After that she wouldn't go near it, and would fight the leash if you tried to make her. Sometime later she was sent to obedience school and the doghouse was never used again.

- DR. ROGER Q. LANDERS JR. '54 Menard, Texas

GREAT LADY, GREAT CLASSMATE

As I looked through my *Spirit* magazine, I told myself that if Dr. Sonja Oliphant did not have an article in this issue about being the first female veterinary student at Texas A&M, that the editors would be hearing from me. Then I saw the article on Page 52, and called Sonja immediately. She was a great lady, and a great classmate. Thank you for the good article. Gig 'em!

— GARY R. HARRELL D.V.M. '65 Dallas, Texas

AERIAL AGGIELAND

I'm enclosing copies of aerial photographs taken just after the completion of Kyle Field. My father, Mac C. Jeffus '34, acquired these during his freshman year, 1930-31. The red arrow off to the left of the building was the Electrical Engineering Building. This was the original location of WTAW, where my father was a student radio engineer. He told of hanging the microphone

out of the window to pick up the band marching down the street. He actually called the plays on one of the games at Kyle in 1930. I hope these will be of interest to your readers.

- W.K. JEFFUS '69 Dallas, Texas

MY AGGIE LEGACY

Time has passed. I am now 87, and my career has long past, but I remain grateful for all that Texas A&M did for me. Some years ago, my wife and I—when the stock market had been kind to us—established the Paul and Ellen Deisler Graduate Fellowship in Chemical Engineering. It took a bite out of our fortune to do it, but I have always been glad we did. My wife has since passed on, but long after I follow her, our fellowship will continue to help talented young folk who need it. That thought warms me in my old age.

- PAUL DEISLER '46 Corpus Christi, Texas

CORRECTIONS

The A&M Legacy Society would like to recognize H. Grady Ash Jr. '58, who was listed incorrectly in the Foundation's 2013 Honor Roll. Mr. Ash should have been listed under the \$5,000,000+ giving category.

A sentence about Reveille IV in the Fall 2013 issue said, "She passed away in 1984." Reveille IV served as mascot from 1975 to 1984. She died March 29, 1989.

OnCampus



Tee Time

The front entrance of the Texas A&M University campus greeted visitors with an entirely new persona last fall. The Campus Course, formerly known as the Texas A&M Golf Course, welcomed the public back on Oct. 26 after a year of remodeling.

The venue's enhancements include new water features, elevated greens and more than 100 additional bunkers. Visible along two of College Station's busiest roads, these aesthetics are just a glimpse of the improved experience it promises.

Designed by Jeff Blume '89, a noted course designer and founder of his namesake golf course architectural firm, the revamped facility now flaunts an 18-hole championship golf course and improved driving range. In addition, a three-hole practice

course was designed for use by golf kinesiology classes. The greens at this short-game facility also will be utilized by the agronomy department for turf grass research.

Future renovations include the building of an outdoor pavilion featuring a sports bar, grill and big-screen TVs to accommodate tournament play.

New Home for Health & Kinesiology

Recreation and instruction play a joint role in one of Texas A&M University's newest campus additions, the 115,000 square-foot Physical Education Activity Program (PEAP) building, which opened last fall. Located on Texas A&M's West Campus, the \$25 million facility houses the Department of Health & Kinesiology.

The PEAP building has a large open-court area that can be configured to accommodate four full-size basketball courts, six volleyball courts or 12 badminton courts. Other features include specialized areas for gymnastics, archery, fencing, boot camp activities, self-defense, yoga, dance and Pilates.

More than 25,000 Texas A&M students enroll in PEAP classes annually. Thanks to a partnership with the Department of Recreational Sports, thousands more have the option to use the building for recreational activities before and after class.

G. Rollie White Coliseum and the Read Building, former homes of the

The remodeled Campus Course, which opened last fall, features a bigger driving range, larger greens and more bunkers.



Left: The Physical Education Activity Program Building, located on West Campus, is a partnership between the Health and Kinesiology and Recreational Sports departments.

Health & Kinesiology department, were demolished as part of the Kyle Field redevelopment.

Naming opportunities are available for special-use rooms and studios in the PEAP building. For more information, contact Jody Ford '99 at (979) 847-8655 or j-ford@tamu.edu.

New Wheels Greet Campus



Designed with safety in mind, MaroonBikes feature automatic lighting, a rear basket, fully adjustable seating, airless tires and a double-lock anti-theft system.

Texas A&M University's new campus bike share program debuted last fall after a report by urban planning graduate students earned the 2013 Dr. Kent Butler Student Program Award from the Central Texas chapter for the American Planning Association.

The report included results from an online survey that showed significant interest in a bike share program from students, faculty and staff and recommended six bike share stations, on and off campus.

The low-maintenance, economical maroon bikes are made of stainless steel with no chains and airless tires. Bike share membership is free to students, faculty and staff; using a bike for the first two hours is free. The third and fourth hours are \$1 each and the rest of the day until midnight is free. More than 700 users have signed up. For more information, visit maroonbikeshare.com.

Mark Hussey Named Interim President

Although there won't be bow ties or tweets, Texas A&M University Interim President Mark A. Hussey doesn't expect there to be



many visible chang- *Dr. Mark A. Hussey* es as he takes over the university's top spot from Dr. R. Bowen Loftin '71.

"My philosophy is to look forward," said Hussey. "The goal we're all working toward is to make Texas A&M among the best land-grant and public universities in the country."

Following a unanimous vote of the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) Board of Regents, Hussey assumed the interim role on Jan. 14 and will serve in the presidency while a national search is being conducted to fill the position vacated by Loftin.

Prior to his appointment, Hussey held the joint positions of vice chancellor for the TAMUS and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He joined Texas A&M in 1983 as an assistant professor at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. Later he moved to the university's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, where he rose to full professor and was named head of the department in 2001. In 2005 he was named associate director of programs for Texas A&M AgriLife Research and was subsequently promoted to the directorship of that agency.

He earned his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Illinois and a master's degree and Ph.D. in plant breeding at Texas A&M.

Texas A&M Rated "Happiest Campus"

Texas A&M University students are the happiest in the nation, according to a survey undertaken by *The Daily Beast*, an affiliate of *Newsweek* maga-

zine. The survey rated "happiest colleges" on several key factors, awarding scores on the basis



of 10 being the highest ranking.

Texas A&M scored 10 for "Overall Student Experience" and 9.8 in the "Would You Do It Again?" category. It received a 9.3 score for "Best Student Health Center" and 9.2 for "Full-Time Freshman Student Retention."

Aggie Vietnam Veteran Added to MSC Hall of Honor

Clarence E. Sasser, who was presented the Medal of Honor in 1969 for his service in Vietnam and subsequently attended Texas A&M University on a scholarship offered by then President James Earl Rudder '32, had his name and likeness added to the university's Hall of Honor.

A recognition ceremony in November honored Sasser for his heroic actions that resulted in the nation's highest award for valor in combat.

An Army medic, Sasser was a private in the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam when he helped evacuate soldiers wounded in a helicopter crash in a flooded rice paddy. While under fire, he carried one of the wounded to cover and returned for

more. Sasser continued to help his fellow soldiers despite running out of supplies and sustaining wounds in both his legs.

Following his military service, he enrolled at Texas A&M as a chemistry major in August 1969. Though he did not graduate from Texas A&M, he embodies all that the Hall of Honor represents.

Sasser is the first African-American medal recipient to be included in the hall and the first who served in the Vietnam War. He joins seven other Medal of Honor recipients who have served the nation with the highest level of service and action.

Clarence Sasser, Medal of Honor recipient



LabWork



Galactic Discovery

Scientists from two Texas research giants—Texas A&M University and the University of Texas (UT)—in October were the first people in the world to see the most distant galaxy ever documented, one created 700 million years after the Big Bang. The discovery will further our knowledge about the origins and evolution of the universe.

Texas A&M astrophysicist Casey Papovich led the effort with a UT colleague and the help of researchers from 10 international institutions.

Researchers estimate that the galaxy, known by the name z8_GND_

5296, is roughly 13.1 billion light years away.

Researchers suspect that they may have zeroed in on the era of the "cosmic dark ages," when the universe made its transition from an opaque state in which most of the hydrogen is neutral to a translucent state in which most of the hydrogen is ionized. According to

the journal *Nature*, this epoch lasted until the first stars and galaxies began to emit light. "As they shuddered to life, this fog dissipated as it was grad-

ually ionized, but when that process started and how long it took is unclear."

Tests Affect How Old People Feel

You're only as old as you feel, or so the saying goes. New research led by Dr. Lisa Geraci of Texas A&M University's Department of Psychology suggests that a simple memory test can have a noticeable impact on subjective age—how old someone feels—aging older adults approximately five years in the span of five minutes.

Geraci and her team found a distinct difference in subjective age before and after participants were given basic memory tests.

In the first study, adults around the age of 75 were asked how old they felt. Results showed that they felt about 58 years old. Next, they participated in a standard memory experiment. When asked again to indicate how old they felt, the answer rose to 63 years old. In a short time, participants had

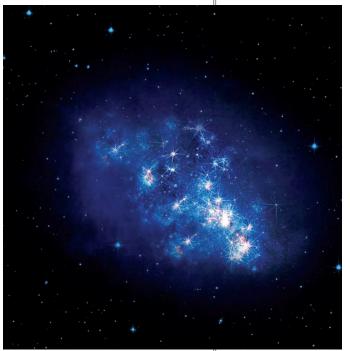
aged themselves five years due to being placed in a testing situation.

"These new results are exciting because they suggest that we may



gest that we may *Dr. Lisa Geraci* be able to change subjective age and influence older adults' cognition and behavior," said Geraci.

An artist's rendering of the newly discovered most distant galaxy shows a slightly red tinge — a giveaway that alerted astronomers to the galaxy's age and distance.



Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation, the JOIDES Resolution was on an expedition through the end of March studying the tectonics of the South China Sea.

A \$330 Million Boost for Deep-Ocean Drilling

The National Science Board has authorized the National Science Foundation (NSF) to enter into a cooperative agreement with Texas A&M University to continue operating its scientific drilling ship, *JOIDES Resolution*, a premier research vessel for deep-ocean drilling, as part of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP).

The five-year, \$330 million agreement with the NSF will begin Oct. 14, 2014.

Texas A&M has served as science operator for the IODP for 30 years, during which research aboard the *JOIDES Resolution* has contributed to knowledge about Earth's climate, ancient sea levels, continental drift, volcano formation and the onset of earthquakes.

App for Young Cancer Survivors

A new smartphone application developed at the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) is helping young adult cancer survivors navigate to a healthier survivorship from their mobile devices.

The Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Healthy Survivorship app targets cancer survivors between the ages of 15 and 39 with personalized tips for being more active, eating better and living a healthier life. The AYA app also outlines cancer screening guidelines, provides information on late side effects of cancer treatment and offers an interactive assessment tool. Users can find links to develop their own survivorship plans and find local, state and national resources.

Creator Deborah Vollmer Dahlke, past chair of the Cancer Alliance of Texas and a doctoral student at the TAMHSC School of Rural Public Health, says that improving the quality

Bright Idea

Research proves that people who work in environments with natural light have reported health benefits compared to those in artificially lit workplaces and have better sleeping patterns, which makes them happier, more productive and better learners.

With that in mind, faculty and students at the Texas A&M College of Architecture Daylighting Laboratory are testing an innovative, energy saving horizontal solar light pipe system that can introduce full-spectrum daylight up to 40 feet into a building.

A 360-degree rotating 20-foot by 30-foot light building at Texas A&M's Riverside Campus, the lab designed and built by Liliana Beltrán, associate professor of architecture, is used to test her solar light pipe design along with other advanced envelope technologies. The light pipe conducts sunlight into the lab from a small passive collector located on the building's exterior through a duct containing highly reflective material. The light is then diffused through a film, which is embedded

with patterns that spread the light uniformly at a

wide angle. Even 1

Even under partly sunny skies, the pipe provides more than three times the amount of light needed to perform ordinary office tasks. It also produces full-spectrum light, void of the artificial hues associated with fluorescent lights. Beltrán says the system is ideal for lighting a wide variety of multistory building types, including offices, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and retail businesses.

Texas A&M Architecture Professor Liliana Beltrán



of life and potential outcomes for young adults with cancer is the driving force behind the design.

The technology will raise awareness for survivorship care while giving patients a sense of control.

Professors Advance Cotton Research

Two studies by Texas A&M University researchers are advancing cotton genetics and breeding in hopes of maintaining U.S. competitiveness in the world market.

Alan Pepper, associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Biology, and a team of researchers in Uzbekistan led by former Texas A&M graduate student Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov 'o1, have discovered how to make a longer, stronger fiber in upland cotton by altering a single gene in the cotton genome.

The USDA-funded discovery will increase the competitiveness of natural cotton fibers versus synthetic fibers and is expected to have an economic impact on the \$120 billion U.S. cotton industry.

A second collaboration led by Dr. Hongbin Zhang, professor of plant genomics and systems biology and director of the Laboratory for Plant Genomics and Molecular Genetics at Texas A&M, is heading a three-year, \$500,000 National Institute for Food and Agriculture-funded study focusing on the genetic makeup of cotton.

Using new sequencing technology, his team is developing a super high-density integrated genetic and



Two Texas A&M University professors are conducting cutting-edge genetic research to enhance U.S. cotton production.

physical map for cotton and sequencing the upland cotton genome. The team is also cloning the genes that control all major traits of cotton fiber quality and yield using a new genome-wide high-throughput gene cloning system to determine the molecular basis and regulation mechanisms of fiber quality and fiber yield.

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

NewGifts

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.

Carl Weisenfelder '47 (second row, fourth from left) has a Texas A&M legacy that includes five Aggie daughters, three Aggie grandchildren (out of 14), and an endowed scholarship for members of the Corps of Cadets.



To Further Our Spirit of Selfless Service

When Carl Weisenfelder '47 enrolled at Texas A&M in 1943, the United States was in the midst of World War II.

"Due to gas rationing, my family couldn't drive the 150 miles from Beaumont to College Station," he said. "So with all my worldly belongings packed in my daddy's old suitcase, I was sent off to college on a train."

In 1944, Weisenfelder was drafted and assigned to the 1629th Engineering Construction Battalion Company B. He served in the Philippines and Japan as part of the Army of Occupation under Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Following an honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Texas A&M and graduated in 1949 with a mechanical engineering degree.

He married his long-time sweetheart Mary Jo Scanlon and worked for Ideco as an engineer designing oil rigs until his retirement in 1985. The couple's five daughters and three of 14 grandchildren are also Aggies.

In honor of his family's Aggie legacy and his passion for Texas A&M, Weisenfelder donated \$25,000 to create an endowed scholarship to benefit members of the Corps of Cadets.

"I hope that this gift will make an impact on future Aggie cadets and will continue the Aggie spirit of selfless service," Weisenfelder said.

Terry Foundation Expands to Galveston

The Houston-based Terry Foundation scholarship program has expanded to include 16 students annually at Texas A&M at Galveston, beginning with the fall 2014 semester.

Founded in 1986 by the late Houston philanthropists Howard and Nancy Terry, the program provides scholarships to outstanding Texas high school graduates for attendance at public universities within the state. The Terry Foundation has supported 1,035 Aggies since its inception in College Station, for a total value of more than \$35 million.

"We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Terry Foundation Scholarship program at Texas A&M University at Galveston," said Yvonne Moody, Terry Foundation executive director. "The institution joins other Texas universities in hosting the largest private scholarship program in the state. Terry Scholars at the university will benefit from the school's outstanding academic programs and national reputation for excellence."

Selection criteria for Terry Foundation Scholars includes a record of academic success, demonstrated leadership and financial need. Scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

Rear Admiral Robert Smith III '61, chief executive officer of Texas A&M University at Galveston, said that the legacy of Howard and Nancy Terry has helped hundreds of young people achieve their dreams.

Davis Doubles Gift for Business

A \$1 million endowment from Sallie and Don H. Davis Jr. '61 to support business students at Texas A&M will have double the impact, thanks to a matching gift of \$1 million from the Center for Executive Development at Mays Business School.

The resulting \$2 million Sallie O. and Don H. Davis Jr. '61 Endowed Scholars Fund will provide scholarships and fellowships to Aggies enrolled in the undergraduate business honors program or full-time MBA program at Mays Business School.

"This was an appealing way for us to help other Aggies with their education and careers," said Don Davis. "The fact that I could double my gift and its potential with the help of Mays was a sound deal."

Davis received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from Texas A&M. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and a freshman walk-on to the baseball team.

After graduation, he worked as an engineering sales trainee with Allen-Bradley and moved up through the sales and marketing ranks to become president in 1989—four years after the



With the help of matching funds, Sallie and Don H. Davis Jr. '61 are providing scholarships and fellowships for undergraduate and graduate business students.

company's acquisition by Rockwell. Davis later served as president, CEO and chairman of Rockwell Automation before retiring in 2005 after a 42-year career with the company.

"I went through life feeling so lucky to be doing what I loved and finding success with it," he said. "I want to afford other students the opendoor opportunities that come with a business degree."

Get a Little, Give a Lot



More than 50 years ago, Byron Anderson '54 received a lifeline from Humble Oil Co. (now ExxonMobil) in the form of a graduate

Byron Anderson '54 engineering fellow-ship. Without it, he could not have pursued a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Texas A&M.

Now, Anderson is paying his good fortune forward through an endowed graduate fellowship to help mechanical engineers pursuing post-graduate education at Texas A&M.

Anderson worked for more than 50 years as a senior engineer at General

Dynamics' Fort Worth division, which later merged with Lockheed Martin.

"My work was my life and as I have grown older, I realized I wanted to do something that promotes this type of work. This gift will do that," Anderson said.

He is funding his fellowship through a combination of an individual retirement account rollover and two gift annuities valued at \$1.3 million. These gifts will alleviate Anderson's tax burden in addition to aiding Texas A&M students.

"Texas A&M is like my family, and I can't think of any institution better suited for this gift," he said.

Sustainability is Key

Utilizing matching gifts from Dow Chemical Co., H.W. (Bill) Clark '74 of Friendswood, Texas, established an endowment to pro-



mote research at H.W. (Bill) Clark '74 Texas A&M in sustainable development, including fossil fuel replacements, transportation alternatives, plant products, ocean ecology and climate change.

Funds from the endowment will be allocated to researchers at Texas A&M based on the merit of their projects. Clark hopes his gift will help Texas A&M become a global leader in sustainability research.

"Sustainability is the key issue of the 21st century due to continuing evidence of damage to the earth's ecology from fossil fuel-related consumption," he said.

A chemical engineering major, Clark served eight years in the U.S. Army and worked for Dow for more than 35 years.

"My Aggie experience brought many blessings into my life, and I wanted to give something back."

OneVoice

Born for Business

I FLIPPED A COIN TO DECIDE WHERE TO GO TO COLLEGE. IT LANDED HEADS, AND LED ME TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

Ever since I was 3 feet tall, I tried to sell things and turn a profit. My mother used to go to craft shows on weekends, and she would let me sit at her booth and sell little bead key chains. During my elementary school years, my siblings and I sold jars of homemade pumpkin butter. I also set up lemonade stands at the end of our horseshoe street, and I leveraged my "ginger cuteness" to boost sales.

In high school, the cuteness faded, and I had to change my strategy to get the neighbors to let me mow and land-scape their lawns. I loved being an entrepreneur, even with all the hard work that came with the job, and I knew I wanted to do it for the rest of my life.

All this may explain why I felt so at home at Mays Business School. I devoured most of my class material during my freshman and sophomore years. Marketing intrigued me the most, so I declared it my major. But even as I delved into my coursework, surrounded myself with business students, and sunk my teeth into as much of the business world as possible, I still worried something was missing. I couldn't help but wonder if I would truly be happy working for a marketing firm when I graduated.

I pushed my uncertainties aside and continued to trudge on, much to my good fortune. One day during the spring of my junior year, I was standing in Lot 72 by the Wehner Building, when I got a call from an old friend. I assumed he was calling to

catch up, but what he asked me caught me off guard. "Hey Taylor, do you want to start a marketing company?" I had no idea what I was doing, and before I could process the idea, the words had already leapt from my mouth: "Okay, that sounds awesome! Let's do it!" At the time, I was doing freelance cinematography and he was working on web design. We had both been referring clients to other friends when they needed graphics, logos and website help, and we realized we could capitalize on an opportunity by collaborating. We called our collaboration Creative New World.

Creative New World is an interactive marketing company that distinguishes our clients from their competitors. We make businesses more visible online and in the community with four areas of expertise—search engine optimization, web design, graphic design and cinematography. I run the cinematography branch from my temporary office at home or my favorite local coffee shop.

I also recently started a company called Timber with my friend and for-

"STARTING MY OWN
COMPANY DURING MY
SENIOR YEAR OF COLLEGE
WAS AN IMMENSE
CHALLENGE. BUT LOOKING BACK NOW, I'M HAPPY
WITH HOW THINGS
PANNED OUT."

-TAYLOR STANLEY '13

mer Yell Leader Ben Debayle 'oo that produces accessories for the dapper man. Our first product was a wearable wooden bow tie. I actually came up with the idea while thinking of what I could give former Texas A&M President Bowen Loftin '71. When I posted a prototype picture on my Facebook profile, people loved it and I received a lot of requests for orders. The company took off so fast that we're still developing our website, but several boutiques in Texas and Colorado are going to sell our bowties, and we're working on several other products including beard oil, dress socks and wooden cuff links.

To say that my work is fun would be an understatement. I absolutely love what I do. But my work is also difficult. During my last semester at Texas A&M, I became very overwhelmed. I'm not one of those superhero students who runs two organizations, is the president of his fraternity, has a 4.0 in nuclear engineering and still hangs out with friends on the weekends. For me, managing schoolwork and my company was an especially taxing exercise in finding balance.

Starting my own company during my senior year of college was an immense challenge, and I definitely missed out on a few normal college experiences. I missed nights at Northgate, bonfires, trips to Lake Bryan and almost an entire football season (believe me, it was hard). But looking back now, I'm happy with how things panned out. Sure, maybe I wouldn't

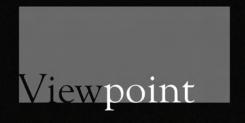
have booked so many video shoots, or taken on so many clients while I was in school. But as it turns out, I do think I'll be happy working for a marketing firm in the future—Creative New World. And in the end, I'm glad I had key chains, lemonade stands and pumpkin butter. I'm glad my friend Chris called me that day. I'm glad that I was able to start a couple of businesses with my best friends. And most of all, I'm glad that the quarter landed heads.

Gig 'em. 🔊

-BY TAYLOR STANLEY '13

Taylor Stanley '13 co-founded Timber, which creates accessories like these wearable wooden bow ties, shortly after graduating from Texas A&M.





Lorraine Urbis '13, a former member of the Texas A&M University Dance Program, pirouettes during a contemporary ballet solo called *Passion Whirlwind*, which channels the early emotions of romantic relationships. The program, which caters to 79 students and is part of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, has been educating and training Aggies to become professional ballerinas and modern dancers since 2002. Graduates of the program typically land careers with professional dance groups, attend graduate school, or teach in the public and private sectors. Thanks to the newly opened Physical Education and Activity Program building on West Campus, students now enjoy natural light studios, sprung floors, and spaces for informal performances and Pilates, all of which enhance the holistic approach of the department and encourage a focus on technique and performance as well as health and well-being.





- SPIRIT IMPACT -





CORPS OF CADETS SPECIAL UNIT GIVES U.S. MILITARY COMBAT VETERANS A UNIQUE PLATFORM TO CONTINUE SELFLESS SERVICE WHILE EXPERIENCING AGGIE TRADITIONS

Take the words *active duty* and eliminate the former—even then, *duty* remains.

For members of our nation's armed forces, upholding the greater good is an unspoken obligation. It's a commitment that requires no verbal or written contract; instead, it simply comes with a sense of pride for one's nation. Members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets' Delta Company know the meaning of duty firsthand. As U.S. Military combat veterans, Delta Company cadets continue their service by inspiring and cultivating future Aggie leaders.

"It's no coincidence that our six Aggie core values—excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service—are what they are," said Col. Jerry Smith '82, USMC (Ret.) director of the Texas A&M Veteran Resource & Support Center. "They overlay

military core values, which these veterans bring to campus."

Smith, who himself served in combat as a Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan, sees his position as one more way he has answered his call to service. In his role, he has helped many veterans navigate the unique challenges they face as they transition back to college to find new careers outside the military.

GREEN TO MAROON

Organizations like Delta Company serve as a conduit through which Texas A&M's time-honored ideals travel. While veterans units in the Corps date back to the post-World War II era, Delta Company—established in 2006—was the first unit dedicated specifically for combat veterans.

"It gained the respect of all the cadets who were non-military very quickly," said Lt. Col. Chris Emmerson '90, who not only took part in the founding of Delta Company, but also served as the unit's training officer for two years before becoming an assistant commandant in the Corps of Cadets. "These veterans want to serve—to continue serving the state and Texas A&M—and many of them want to participate in that uniformed Aggie experience."

Cadets like Austin Howard '16, a 27-year-old Ohio native and a Delta Company cadet, view it as their duty to impart to others the leadership, maturity and problem-solving skills they gained in combat.

"We learn from our leaders and pass on that knowledge so none of it ever dies," Howard said. "I think that's a responsibility that we all should take on."

During his last deployment in Afghanistan, Howard's lieutenant encouraged him to pursue a commission through the Army's Green to Gold program, which would provide him financial support to finish college and return to the military as an officer. To do this, the lieutenant suggested that Howard look into Texas A&M, which is ranked in U.S. News & World Report's top five schools for veterans. It was due to this support and mentorship that Howard is now on track to complete his bachelor's degree in animal science.

And it's precisely this kind of impact that Howard hopes to make on others. "If one of these kids is going to be a lieutenant someday, we want that person to be the best lieutenant he or she can be," he said. "I take great pride in the Army, and I would never want to send a kid into service knowing that I could have done more to help him become successful in the military."

PRICELESS PERSPECTIVES

Having experienced the military's chain of command, the cadets in Delta Company understand that leadership is a privilege. They know that respect from subordinates is not something that comes by default with rank. The only way to instill character, Howard believes, is to lead by example.

"It's the old Gandhi quote, 'be the change you wish to see in the world," he said. "In the Army, we call it 'embrace the suck.' Even with something as simple as cleaning the area you work in everyday, you can't expect a kid to do it if you aren't willing to do it yourself."

Learning these important lessons, however, can be stressful for a freshman cadet.

"You have no control and you're constantly being overseen," said Delta Company commanding officer and economics major Robert Sims '14, who sympathizes with the pressures of being a freshman cadet and encourages his fellow veterans to train with other outfits. He believes that participation in this "outfit mentorship"—which is completely voluntary and informal—helps veterans develop a sense of personal responsibility, while also promoting the outfit's presence on the Quad.

It also provides younger cadets a built-in support system. Not every fish feels secure about asking his superiors certain questions, that's where Delta Company members play another important role. "We're a little bit more relaxed and a little bit more approachable, so they can come to us," Howard said.

Beyond giving PT pointers and military science tutoring, what makes the veterans' mentorship truly one of a kind is the perspective they offer on life in the military and in combat. With many young cadets on the fence about contracting, the veterans can ease the decision-making process by answering questions that pamphlets may not address.

"They want to know the ins and outs of the Army and how it works," Howard said. "They ask questions like, 'Is the

> THESE VETERANS WANT TO

SERVE

TO CONTINUE SERVING THE STATE AND TEXAS A&M.



Army really like what I see on TV?' and 'What really happens in the military?' We tell them what they can expect, whether they go to Iraq or Djibouti or elsewhere."

Also a Marine combat veteran, Emmerson is proud of the Delta Company cadets who take time to help younger students better understand the military. "I wish I had a resource like this when I was a cadet 30 years ago," he said.

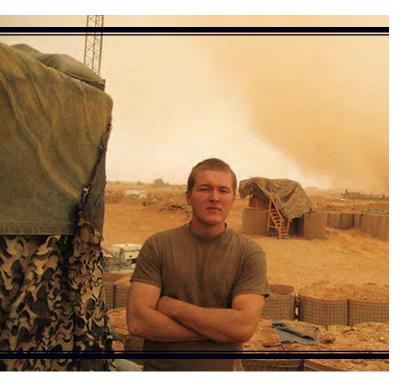
In exchange for the invaluable assets they bring to the Corps of Cadets, Delta Company provides its members with a modified training environment. Because these veterans are older than the average freshman, they also benefit from the peer support that the company's unique group dynamic provides. In addition, they are given the flexibility to live off campus while still being a part of a fully functioning Corps unit.

"What you have is veterans from all of the services who didn't know each other; their most important bond is that they served in combat," Emmerson said. "The camaraderie is the best piece."

FINDING BALANCE

Since its creation eight years ago, the outfit maintains an average annual membership of 25 students—less than four percent of the university's pool of nearly 700 student veterans. Though many veterans express interest in joining the Corps, they're often deterred by the costs.

To participate in the Corps, students incur minimally \$3,900 to \$5,000 in additional expenses each year. Then, consider that Delta Company cadets are non-traditional students, all of whom have military experience and many of whom are older and married. About 40 percent of the student veterans



are married; after a post-service pay cut and without much family support, these students must supplement the GI Bill. Robert Sims '14, economics major and commanding officer of Delta Company, served in Afghanistan with the Army.

"You can't be a great father, a great employee and a great student all at the same time," explained Howard, who has a wife and two-year-old son, Jack. "There's just not enough hours in the day, and something's gotta give. It's a delicate balance."

Efforts to help ease the expenses associated with Corps participation began last June during a Flag Day celebration at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, which featured a screening of the documentary "Veteran Nation: The Mission at Home Has Just Begun." The documentary showing was a call to the community to support veterans.

Susan Laue, a member of the Bryan/College Station community and advocate for veterans, organized the event with the intent to seed a fund that would defray textbook costs for members of Delta Company. However, Laue said the mission quickly changed when a young veteran made a donation, remarking that if he could help just one Delta Company cadet, it was worth parting with the money.

Laue learned that the veteran was once a member of the unit and understood how expensive it could be. This brought to light the source of the cadets' financial challenges. Prompted to address the issue, Laue took the reins. Through a collaboration of volunteers, the Texas A&M Foundation and other organizations, she used proceeds from the Flag Day event to create the Delta Company Cadet Support Fund. This year, the fund helped cover textbook expenses for several cadets who were awaiting funds from the GI Bill. The aid functions much like an interest-free loan; when their Veterans Administration compensation arrives, the cadets restore the amount borrowed into the support fund. While it will continue to provide direct financial assistance for Delta Company cadets, the fund also has an endowed account that will plant the seed for long-term support for the veterans. Laue hopes that with adequate aid, more veterans will take advantage of the opportunity to both serve and benefit from the Corps of Cadets, all while obtaining a quality Texas A&M

"My dad always tells me that 'you need an education, even if you don't use it," Howard said. "Even if you just learn to write and go to school for the exposure, it's a great quality to have the tenacity to write a paper every week and to study for exams. That adds more weight to your leadership because it gives you a foundation of responsibility. It disciplines you to do something until it's completed."

—BY DINI SUSANTO '15

To learn how you can support Delta Company, contact:

Jerome Rektorik '65 Director of Development Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (979) 458-1689 jrektorik@tamu.edu

To contribute online, visit give.am/SupportDeltaCompany.

To watch a video about Delta Company, visit give.am/DeltaCompany.

Broken toilet bowls and sinks. Sulfur recovered from toxic fumes burned off in an oil field or emanating from chimneys, only to return to the earth as "acid rain." Shredded tires and pantyhose. Ashy remains from coal combustion. To most people, these items are simply waste — something to be disposed of as cheaply and easily as possible.

But Don Saylak '72 sees something else entirely: He sees this "garbage" as a vital part of the future of the construction of roadways and buildings.

Saylak, professor emeritus of materials science and director of by-product utilization and recycling at Texas A&M University, uses materials science to give old things new life. Like an alchemist spinning lead into gold, he has spent much of his career finding ways to turn industrial and municipal waste into everything from highways to houses.

As the price of new construction materials continues to rise and consumers become ever more environmentally conscious, Saylak says it makes financial sense to work with discarded materials. Even better, what he creates using waste is often superior to the traditional construction materials they are intended to replace.

Take his latest effort for example: old toilets, 90 percent of which end up in landfills, where they could take hundreds of years to decompose. Saylak has developed a process for recycling these pre-owned potties into incredibly durable cements for soil stabilization and to make brick, cinder block, and masonry for low-cost housing.

"And that's the way you wind down a 63-year engineering career," he jokes. "In the toilet!"

Saylak is apt to jest. The jovial octogenarian is easy-going, talkative and interested in just about everything. One thing that doesn't interest him, however, is taking it easy.

He retired from his position at Texas A&M in 1993 to take care of his first wife, who was battling cancer. After she passed away, he went back to work. Though he hasn't received a paycheck in at least two decades,

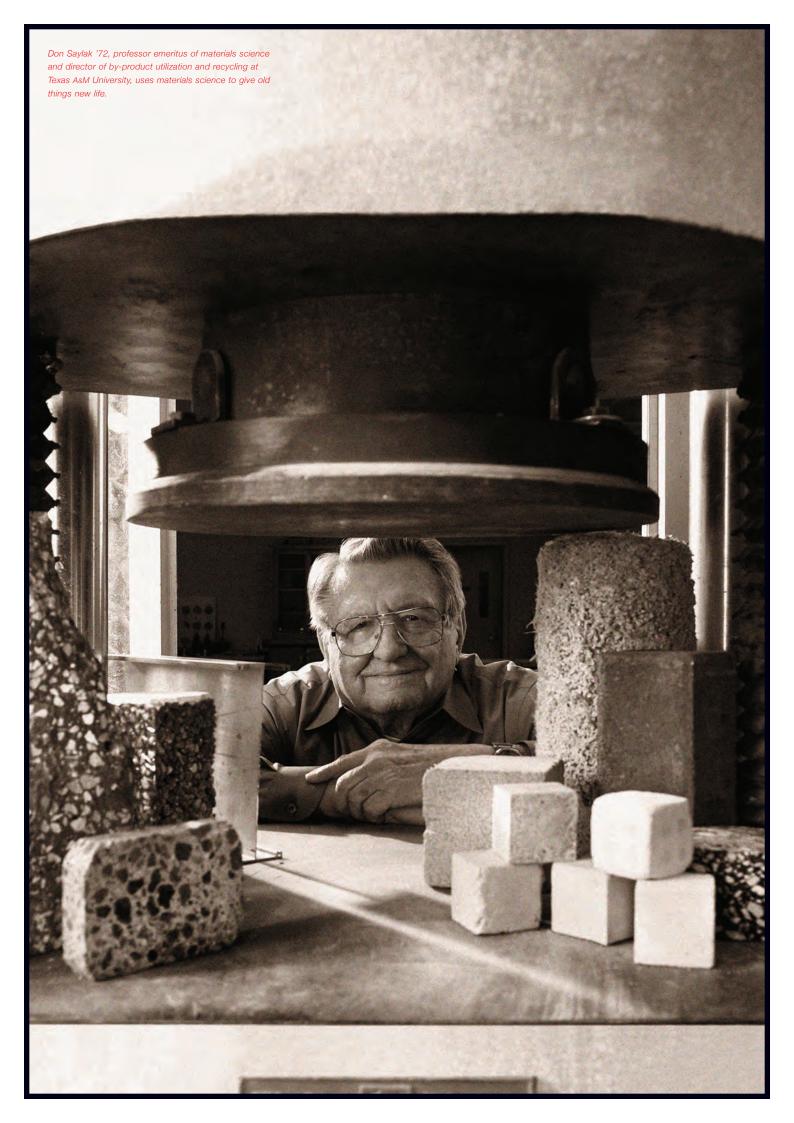
Saylak is a constant presence in Texas A&M's civil engineering department. "I don't play dominoes or golf," he said. "I'd rather be at work."

Educational Escape

Saylak grew up in an immigrant community near Pittsburgh. Hard work was a second religion for the people in his community, where the main industry was steel. It was a source of great pride for a father to be known as a good worker in the steel mill and to be able to secure a job there for his son.

Saylak resigned himself that this was to be his future—countless hours of hard, hot, dangerous labor. He dreamed of becoming an engineer, but as no one in his community had ever gone to college, that ambition seemed as fleeting as the smoke rising from the steel mill chimneys.





When Texas A&M recruited him to develop

a graduate program in materials in 1969, Saylak took the opportunity to explore these new areas of technology.

It was his high school principal, Dr. Maurice Arner, who changed the course of his life. Arner looked at Saylak, a poor kid who ran with a street gang and was lucky to graduate high school, the same way Saylak would someday look at a cracked toilet.

He saw potential. He saw the future. At graduation, Saylak shared his dream with Arner, who took him under his wing, tutoring him in trigonometry and solid geometry—required subjects for engineering to which Saylak had not been exposed. "You don't need to know Euclid's theorems to work in a factory," Saylak said. "Dr. Arner was preparing me for something else, for something better. He inspired my love for

math and science, and from that time on, I was never without a book in my hand."

Not long after, Saylak received two important let-

ters—an invitation from the Pittsburgh Pirates to attend spring training to try for a spot on the team, and an acceptance letter to the University of Pittsburgh. Unbeknownst to Saylak, Arner had secured a scholarship for him.

With two gleaming options before him, he asked his mentor what he should do. "You're a man now and you've got to make your own decisions," Arner told



him. "But whatever you decide, know that if I ever see you coming out of the mill with grime on your face, that will be the last day I teach. You're meant for something better."

Saylak chose education—a decision he never regretted.

From Rocket Science to Recycling

Saylak earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in three years, while working part-time to help support his family. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh just in time to be drafted to serve in Korea. He survived one of the major engagements of the war, the Battle of the Punchbowl, and was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery.

After the war he worked on synthetic fibers for DuPont while earning a master's degree in chemical engineering in the evenings from the University of Delaware. Later he joined the U.S. Space Program at the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory in California, where he did missile research that earned him the award for Outstanding Technical Achievement of the Year in 1969 from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The following year he received the Air Force Systems Command Award for Outstanding Research and Development for his work on significant improvements to the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile. Later he was elected chairman of the Joint Army, Navy, NASA, Air Force advisory board on military rocket design and performance.

The work piqued his interest in some of the new areas of engineering



Saylak has developed a process for recycling old toilets, tires and other waste products to make brick, cinder block, and masonry for low-cost housing.

in the space program. When Texas A&M recruited him to develop a graduate program in materials in 1969, Saylak took the opportunity to explore these new areas of technology and to earn a doctorate in interdisciplinary engineering.

He went on to hold a joint appointment with the civil engineering department, the Texas Transportation Institute and the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

Saylak said he has been in "engineering heaven" for the past 45 years at Texas A&M, with the resources and opportunities to explore all kinds of new problems. He has produced numerous patents and publications in the areas of nuclear power, solid propellant rocketry and materials science. His accolades include the Environmental Protection Agency Award for Innovative Research in 2008 for his work on the use of byproducts of coal combustion in highway and building construction.

The Saylak Legacy

The best part of his job? It's not research breakthroughs and bringing new products to market.

"My passion is and always will be young people," he said. "I want to give them the same chance my principal gave me." Over the years, he has mentored more than 90 master's and doctoral students.

Saylak's passion springs from working with the brightest young minds in the various engineering programs at Texas A&M. On any given day in Aggieland, you can find him in his office or the materials lab, experimenting on various forms of waste with a group of his students.

He wants this work to continue long after he is gone. That's why he and his wife Nancy recently arranged a planned

TCRUT Triple Benefits

The giving vehicle that Nancy and Don Saylak selected to fund their endowed faculty chair is a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust (TCRUT)—a powerful estate planning tool that will allow them to provide for heirs, save on taxes and leave a significant charitable legacy.

The Saylaks' TCRUT, created through a revocable living trust, will be funded after their lifetimes. The trust will pay income to one or more beneficiaries. Instead of leaving a lump sum to heirs, utilizing a TCRUT allows the Saylaks to spread their inheritance over a period of up to 20 years. The Saylaks will determine the amount their heirs receive, as well as the frequency and duration. When the trust is terminated, the remaining principal will be distributed to the Texas A&M Foundation.

For Saylak, the trust will support his wife Nancy in the event that he predeceases her. "I wanted to provide a vehicle for the continuation of my work," said Saylak. "I hadn't heard of the TCRUT before, but the Foundation staff told me about all of the benefits to me and my family."

Cash, real estate and appreciated securities are all assets that can be placed into a testamentary charitable remainder trust. Many people choose to fund the trust with retirement account assets because of the tax savings. Not only do you enjoy a charitable deduction at the time your trust is funded, but you avoid income tax on the transfer of your IRA or other retirement plans to the unitrust.

To see an illustration of the benefits of testamentary charitable remainder unitrust for you and your family, contact Angela Throne '03 in the Office of Gift Planning at a-throne@tamu.edu or (800) 392-3310.



gift to the Texas A&M Foundation to endow the Saylak Family Faculty Chair in Construction Materials.

An endowed chair is an elite academic position held by top professors, created when a donor gives at least \$1 million. The endowed funds generate an annual income to pay for a professor's research, travel costs and the salaries of his or her graduate assistants.

Saylak's gift, a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust, will provide for a faculty member to continue his legacy of touching students' lives and advancing the future of construction. Any balance remaining when the chair is fully funded will be used to support financially challenged students who attend Texas A&M as part of the Presidential Endowed Scholarship Program.

In the meantime, Saylak will continue the work of impacting students'

lives himself. At 85 years old, he's still having far too much fun to quit. $\stackrel{*}{\sim}$

-BY CHRYSTAL HOUSTON

To learn more about supporting faculty at Texas A&M University, contact:

Carl Jaedicke '73 Vice President for Principal Gifts Texas A&M Foundation (800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161 c-jaedicke@tamu.edu

To watch a video about Dr. Saylak's work at Texas A&M, visit give.am/DrSaylak.

ocated on the Canadian border, Fort Kent, Maine, is about as far from College Station as one can get in the continental United States, but that didn't stop Rebecca Overton.

Last fall, her 10-year-old Chihuahua, Luna, began walking strangely, with her back arched like a Halloween cat and in obvious pain. After a week of working with her local veterinarian to no avail, Overton and her husband Mark, a 2004 graduate of Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, knew just what to do: Consult the veterinarians at Texas A&M. "We were sure that Texas A&M could figure this out," she said. The Overtons hadn't forgotten the exceptional and compassionate care their very sick German Shepherd had received a few years earlier at the Small Animal Hospital while they were living in Houston. So, with Luna gingerly stowed in a carrier, Rebecca Overton drove three hours to Bangor, Maine, then flew to New York City and on to Houston, arriving at the Small Animal Hospital emergency room, exhausted but hopeful, at one o'clock in the morning.

It's not really a surprise that a pet owner would travel some 2,000 miles to Texas A&M's Small Animal Hospital. After all, the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is consistently rated one of the top veterinary schools in the nation. It is known for its wide range of specialties (from cardiology to oncology), for its envelope-pushing services, including an imaging center that is more advanced than some human hospitals, and for innovations that help improve animal health as well as human health.

Right now, however, there's an alignment issue. Offering clinical services since 1888, the college is the oldest, continually operating veterinary practice in Texas. The facilities where dogs like Luna are treated are out of step with the program's superb veterinary services and stellar reputation—a reputation that attracts an ever-growing number of clients like the Overtons in the first place. This is the impetus behind a \$30 million fundraising campaign to expand and upgrade the hospital as the college is poised to celebrate 100 years of top-flight animal care in 2016.





Texas A&M's Small Animal Hospital fundraising campaign will expand and upgrade the hospital.

Cramped and Outdated

"We've had a variety of visitors from the outside comment on the facilities," said Jonathan Levine, an associate professor of neurology, as he stood in the concrete and cinderblock hallway of the 31-year-old Small Animal Hospital. Levine, who has a reputation for driving knowledge forward through his research, has a grant from the Department of Defense to test a therapy for dogs that could protect the spinal cord after acute damage, with the hope that it can help injured humans as well. "Clients may have been referred to us from very nice hospitals," he added.

"And some of those hospitals look like spas," said the colleague standing with him in the hall. Heather Wilson-Robles, an assistant professor of oncology, is doing her own groundbreaking work in partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She is studying a variety of drugs that might be effective in treating, and hopefully, curing dogs with cancer. At the same time, she is searching for drugs that could be put on the fast-track for ap proval to use in human cancer patients. As Levine and Wilson-

Robles talked, two technicians squeezed by, helping a groggy yellow Labrador Retriever out of the surgery area.

"People come here," Levine continued, "and they're a little shocked because the hospital is cramped and outdated." Even the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association, which accredits the college, noted the tight quarters on its last visit in 2009.

Meeting Sheer Demand

The fact is that veterinary medicine is practiced much differently today than when the hospital was built in 1983. "We need to accommodate the increase in sophistication and the application of newer technologies and treatments," said Dr. Eleanor Green, Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine, regarding the goals of the hospital expansion. "For example, the surgery room of the 1980s had to accom modate the surgery table and an anesthesia machine and that was about all. Today multiple pieces of diag mostic, therapeutic and imaging equipment are essen tal, as are expanded teams of surgeons, technicians and others."





Plus, sheer demand must be considered. Ten years ago, the small animal hospital treated 11,000 cases a year. Now its caseload approaches 20,000 annually, with an expected growth of 4 to 5 percent annually during the next few years. "We keep modifying our services to meet the needs of our students, clients and referring veterinarians," said Green. "Through the evolution comes increased caseload."

Keeping that caseload high is vital for the primary function of the hospital—training the veterinarians of the future who will provide care throughout the communities of Texas and beyond, supporting graduate veterinarians across the State of Texas and the nation, and serving animal owners. "The more cases we have here, the better learning experience it is and the better veterinarians our graduates will become when they leave," said Kenita Rogers, associate dean for professional programs. And students learn best when they can fit into treatment rooms.

Change on the Horizon

Among the specific plans for the hospital are designs for triple the current capacity of surgery suites and intensive care units (ICUs) for dogs and cats. Right now, both ICUs are shoehorned into space that once served as kennels for



The new hospital (above) will be designed to address both the physical and emotional needs of the animals and owners. One element of the expansion will be a larger, more comfortable waiting area that is divided into separate spaces for cats and dogs. "We want to elevate the client experience," said Sandee Hartsfield, head of the small animal clinical sciences department. "If you can keep the little cat away from the big dog, there's less stress on the pets and their owners."



Rebecca Overton found help for her 10-year-old Chihuahua, Luna, at Texas A&M's Small Animal Hospital.

boarded patients. Supplies and equipment are stored in hallways; break rooms have been converted to treatment

areas. Specialties like oncology, cardiology and zoology (where animals like tigers and bears are treated) are doing their best in small confines. With enough room for multiple tables and a full rotation of students, dentistry could see twice as many patients. "Dentistry wasn't even a specialty in 1983," said Green.

The emergency room, carved out of one section of the building, is often overloaded. "Yesterday, there was no more floor space," said David Nelson, director of emergency, critical and primary care. "If we'd gotten one more dog in here, we'd have had to put it in the hall." According to Nelson, new veterinary hospitals at other large universities are set up so that primary and emergency care, which serve the community in a very direct way, are separate from the specialty hospital, which mostly works with patients that have been referred by other veterinarians. "Just as human hospitals have regular and emergency entrances, the triage of the patient can occur with much more efficiency in a dedicated facility."



The hope is that the hospital—thoughtfully laid out to address both the physical and emotional needs of the animals and owners—will soon be on par with the adjacent, state-of-the-art Large Animal Hospital and the Diagnostic Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center. (Texas A&M is one of only two veterinary hospitals in the country that offers TomoTherapy, which combines linear radiation therapy and CT scanning technology, and the only one that is equipped to serve large animals).

The campaign is off to a robust start thanks to donors like Joan Read of Magnolia, Texas, a longtime Texas A&M supporter, who has contributed \$20,000. "When the clinic is expanded, I can see growth of facilities, added personnel with even greater dedication, and—most important of all—the animals will have their needs met on a larger scale," said Read. "We have a high regard for the clinic because the staff has either saved the lives of some of our dogs or made them healthy once again."

Luna Spins Again

That same happy fate awaited 10-year-old Luna from Maine. After only a short time at the hospital, clinicians determined that Luna's pain was caused by a herniated disc in her neck. Luna was promptly operated on to relieve the compression around the spinal cord. Two days after surgery, she was able to walk well and even spin in a circle—her customary trick to beg for a treat. "I was so impressed by all the different veterinarians and students who saw our Luna," said Rebecca Overton. "It was so touching to have that kind of care, and they were all so patient. They treated me like I was the most important person in the place." Now, far away in Maine, Rebecca keeps a bumper sticker on her refrigerator. It reads, "My Pet Loves Its Aggie Vet."

- BY JEANNIE RALSTON

To learn how you can contribute to the Small Animal Hospital expansion campaign, contact:

Chastity Carrigan

Director of Development

Texas A&M Foundation

(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-9043

chastity-carrigan@tamu.edu

VIP Client

Dr. Robert Strawser is a true believer in the campaign to renovate Texas A&M's Small Animal Hospital. By day, he is professor and Arthur Anderson & Co. Chair in the accounting department at Mays Business School—and father to Dean Jerry Strawser '83. In his spare time, he rescues abandoned dogs, cats and other animals. In the process, he has become one of the hospital's most valuable clients.

Strawser and his wife Carol Ann have been saving animals for more than 30 years; currently, they are caring for about 14 dogs and nearly 40 cats, most of which were abandoned near their Brazos County property. Because many of the animals are left near their home off State Highway 6, they are often seriously injured and in need of immediate medical attention. Some have been shot or hit by cars; others are malnourished or in need of vaccines. He takes them all to the Small Animal Hospital. After treatment, he tries to find homes for the abandoned dogs and cats or keeps them himself.

"There is no better place to be involved in animal rescue than here because of the proximity of one of the best—if not the best—vet clinics in the nation," he said. "I have never been disappointed by the services or quality of the people and the care offered there. I know they put animals first, and I know I am getting the best-educated vet students and most experienced clinicians. I trust those people.

"They work miracles with what they have, but they need more."

Dr. Robert Strawser, professor at Mays Business School, rescues abandoned dogs in his spare time.



Sarah Tohlen '13, the inaugural recipient of the Sara May Special Education Scholarship, was one of approximately 150 caregivers who provided Sara May (right) with companionship and support for daily living.



Sara May was not a Texas A&M professor, but she has taught countless Aggies a special lesson about life, acceptance and friendship.

t age 5, Sara was diagnosed with a rare, progressive genetic disorder called Cockayne Syndrome. The illness stunts a person's growth and impairs nervous system development. Those who suffer from it also experience premature aging, and symptoms such as impaired vision, hearing loss, spasticity and poor circulation. While the condition presented many challenges for Sara, she chose to define her life by what she could achieve versus what she could not.

As a result of her degrading physical health, since the age of 6 she required assistance with daily activities. Enter her mother and champion Kathy May, a longtime business administrator in the College of Education and Human Development. She began hiring special education students as caregivers and companions for Sara—a creative solution with advantages for both mother and daughter, as well as for Aggies in need of real-world experience.

The Aggies are We

The Aggies who Kathy found to help care for her daughter were compassionate

and dedicated, driven by their passion to make life better for individuals with special needs. The friendships between Sara and "her Aggies" took root in her everyday tasks—their bonds strengthened through shared interests in movies, music, shopping and travel.

"Aggies accepted Sara as a sister, not as someone with a disability," said Kathy. "They appreciated her love of life, great sense of humor and genuine thirst for adventure. As caregivers, they helped Sara meet her physical and medical needs. As friends, they brought her joy."

Sara was 6 years old when her parents hired the first Aggie student to help out. Many Texas A&M students spent time with her outside of their work hours and kept in touch after they graduated. The May family often hosted students for meals and weekend stays.

"Sara wanted to learn how to ride a bike, inline skate and snow ski down black diamond trails," said Kathy. "At the time, doctors told us that she would not be able to do any of these things, and that her life expectancy was only a few years beyond her sixth birthday. But the students helped my daughter develop the confidence and skills to accomplish all of these goals and more."

Serving Others

While a student at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station, Sara worked on the Texas A&M campus at Pi R Square, a university food court, clearing tables and sweeping the floor. She approached her work with the same enthusiasm that filled all other aspects of her life, and in 2002 she received an Outstanding Student Worker Award.

When her family registered to attend an annual conference in 2000 for families of children who have Cockayne Syndrome, Sara decided that she would give a lap blanket to each child at the conference. During several weeks of lunch breaks, Sara, her mother and Texas A&M colleagues crocheted blankets for all 68 children who attended the conference that year.

As an adult, she loved to travel, visiting 40 U.S. states and several countries. She was active in Special Olympics, Challenger baseball and basketball, Girl Scouts and Project Sunshine. A member of the A&M Church of Christ, she

Kathy May (left) created a scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation to honor the many Aggies who had made an investment in her daughter Sara's life.

was also involved with its student group, Aggies for Christ. Through all of these activities, Texas A&M students were by her side.

A Special Education

On Sept. 30, 2012, at the age of 27, Sara May passed away due to complications from her illness.

Although she lived a life too short, many generous people have worked together to ensure that her legacy lives on at Texas A&M. Through the Texas A&M Foundation, her family and friends created the endowed Sara May Special Education Scholarship.

"I wanted to do something to honor the Aggies who had such a strong investment in Sara's life, while helping others to prepare to work with special needs students," said Kathy.

The inaugural recipient of the Sara May Special Education Scholarship and one of her caregivers for nearly three years was Sarah Tohlen '13, now a special education teacher in the Plano Independent School District.

Tohlen was one of approximately 150 caregivers who provided Sara May

with companionship and support for daily living. They shared shopping at the

mall and in craft stores, dancing, watching movies, attending Aggie yell practice and other activities. The pair also enjoyed staying home to bake, play games or hang out with friends.

"Sara was always up for doing something fun," said Tohlen. "She was a positive, sassy girl who could bring a smile to anyone's face."

Tohlen believes she was doubly enriched by the time she spent with her friend and charge.

"I am a better person because I knew Sara," Tohlen said. "I not only experienced what it's like to be with, help, teach, love and support someone with special needs, but I also learned about their families, friends, struggles and stresses.

"Sara taught me so much, and I am constantly using these lessons in my career. I am more patient and accepting than I ever would have been without her influence. Although she's gone, her life

will continue to change this world for the better through the people who knew her and through the students who receive her scholarship."

— BY DIANE L. OSWALD

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS

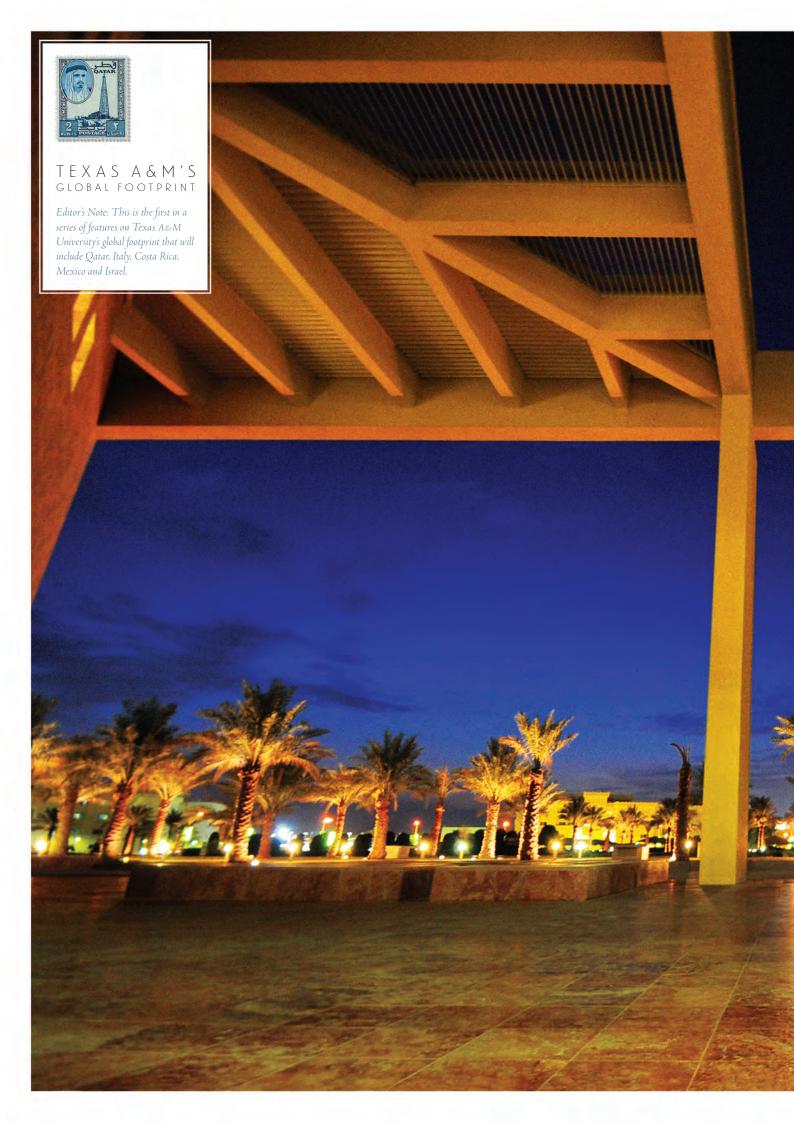
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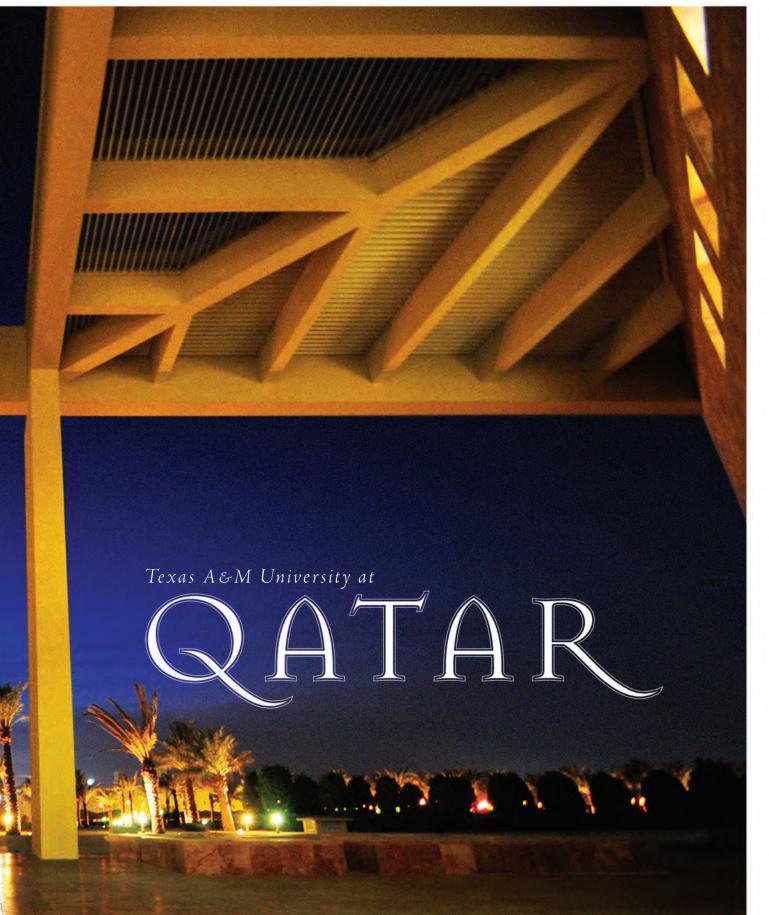
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To learn more about how you can support special education at Texas A&M, contact:

Jody Ford '99
Director of Development
Texas A&M Foundation
(800) 392-3310 or (979) 847-8655
j-ford@tamu.edu

Donate online to the Sara May Special Education Scholarship at give.am/SupportSaraMay.





Mary Katebah'n, a Syrian-American by birth, grew up in the Middle East, graduating from high school in Doha, Qatar, on the Arabian Gulf. When it was time to go to college, she decided to get an American education. An Aggie education. Without even leaving home. In 2007, she became a freshman pursuing a chemical engineering degree at the Qatar campus of Texas A&M University.

At orientation, a yell leader from College Station taught her class about Aggie lore, such as Reveille, the 12th Man and the harvesting of Varsity's horns. "I'd never seen anything like that passion," she recalled. "It was all crazy to me, but I loved it." Initially she had trouble understanding some of the traditions, but the Aggie War Hymn soon became a favorite.

Later, cheerfully swept up in Aggie fervor, she would shout "Hullabaloo! Caneck! Caneck!" with her fellow students during soccer games at Texas A&M at Qatar. "Soccer is our equivalent to American football, and we'd sing songs in Arabic and do yells too," said Katebah, 23, who is now pursuing a master's degree in chemical engineering at the Qatar campus while working at ConocoPhillips. "Here we mix two cultures and make it our own special one. To get the Aggie experience in the middle of the desert is funny, but it has its own magic."

That magic works on many levels at the Qatar campus of Texas A&M. Established in 2003, the campus is part of what's known as Education City—an area on the outskirts of Doha set aside by the state-supported Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development where top universities from around the world offer degrees in their best programs. Carnegie Mellon University has departments in business and computer science; Georgetown University, in international politics and economics. The Qatar Foundation, led by Her Highness Sheika Moza bint Nasser, chose Texas A&M for its renowned engineering department. Today, the campus offers undergraduate degrees in petroleum, mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering and a master's degree in chemical engineering, with the possibility of a future graduate studies program.

"The vision the leaders at Qatar Foundation had was for Texas A&M to maintain its standards for admissions and degree programs, to have autonomy and to have the same quality faculty as in College Station," said Mark Weichold '78, dean and CEO of Texas A&M at Qatar, recalling his initial visit in 2002 to explore the possibility of opening a branch campus. "But the thing that put it over the top for me was looking at Education City as a bridge between cultures, a mechanism for students in the Middle East to learn about Western education and culture and for American students to learn about this area. I thought that was something we could really buy into."

learly, the campus has had great success in academics. In December 2007, two female Qataris became the first graduates; today the campus has an enrollment of 522 and during the past decade, has sent a total of 411 newly minted Aggie engineers out into the world's workforce. Of the 78 full-time faculty members, 15 percent are joint appointments from College Station that help maintain continuity with the main campus.

The student body is a mix of Qatari nationals (more than 50 percent) and young people mainly from the Middle East, India and Pakistan. About 38 percent are females—a higher percentage than in the engineering college in College Station. Last fall, the campus received about 700 applications for 100 slots in the freshman class. Criteria for acceptance are identical to those at the main campus—including

SAT scores, essays, grade point averages—and all classes are conducted in English with the same rigorous curriculum found in College Station.

Demand for graduates is high. A main reason the Qatar Foundation wanted to open the Texas A&M campus was to help get more Qatari nationals into positions of leadership in multinational companies based in Doha. This push is beginning to pay off as alumni move up the corporate ladder. "An Aggie engineer is different. It's a way of thinking and approaching problems that sets us apart," said Ahmad Almansoor '09, who earned a mechanical engineering degree in 2010 and now works for Qatar Petroleum.

But for Almansoor and others, Texas A&M at Qatar has

meant more than books and classrooms. "I knew I was going to be a good student and would receive a great education, but I didn't expect to become part of a family," he said. "You're part of the Aggie family and that's something you take pride in."

Just as in College Station, students learn the Code of Honor and walk through the corridors saying "Howdy," and "Gig 'em." Seniors look "I knew I was going to be a good student and would receive a great education, but I didn't expect to become part of the Aggie family."

—Ahmad Almansoor '09

forward to Ring Day when they will get rings of the exact same design as those at the main campus. (One difference: male students order rings in a silver color, since gold in Arab countries is normally worn by females only.) Football games from Texas are often streamed via satellite into the campus auditorium.

For some, the sense of Aggie family supersedes everything else. "I remember talking to a student who was struggling in her classes," says Dr. Todd Kent, assistant dean for academic affairs. "I finally asked her, 'Do you really want to be an engineer?' She said, 'I don't know. But I really want to be an Aggie.'"

The Aggie bond is certainly stronger than cultural differences, as young people from either campus who participate in student exchanges discover. Every semester students from Qatar study abroad in College Station and vice versa. To encourage camaraderie, those in Qatar from the U.S. are asked to volunteer a couple of hours a week in the Office of Academic Supplemental Instruction Services—called, appropriately enough, "The OASIS." Over spring break, 10 student leaders from each university exchange campuses for a week. Some seniors are able to collaborate on design projects with their counterparts across the globe.

"It's important to have students making connections before their impressions have been skewed by the 6 o'clock news," said Weichold, who hopes to raise money for scholarships that will facilitate more student exchanges.

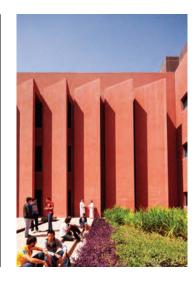








Clockwise: The Qatar peninsula juts 100 miles north into the Persian Gulf from Saudi Arabia. Much of its land consists of a low, barren plain covered with sand. The famous father-son Mexican architect team Legoretta+Legoretta designed the unique Texas A&M Engineering Building on the Qatar campus. It consists of two distinct parts, a research and an academic wing. Mary Katebah '11 is pursuing a master's degree in chemical engineering at Texas A&M at Qatar.



efore Gerald Daigle '15 left to spend fall semester 2013 in Qatar, many people asked him if he was scared. "They thought I was going to a country with strong anti-American beliefs; they didn't know about the vibrant, peaceful countries in the area," said Daigle, 20, who is a senior mechanical engineering major from Houston. Gerald decided to study there because he loves traveling and he wanted to get an international engineering certificate that would show potential employers that he had experience working with engineers around the world.

Daigle made many new friends in Qatar and experienced warmth that he said dwarfs even celebrated Southern hospitality. "When you're their friend, especially if you're from a different country, they take such good care of you." He fondly recalled the time spent at the homes of Qatari friends. "I was able to sit down with an imam [a person who leads prayers in a mosque]," he remembered. "Because of a radical minority, some Americans have a misperception of Islam, but one of its main teachings calls for peace and brotherhood."

Back in College Station for spring semester, Daigle shares his insights with those who might misunderstand the region. "The only way to correct misconceptions is to educate," he said, "and the best way to teach is to have first-hand experience of the truth."

Students in Qatar are also exposed to ideas that have deep implications. According to the Texas Education Code, all students must take classes in American government, American history and state and local politics—and that requirement extends to students in Qatar, many of whom have never visited the U.S., much less Texas. Dr. Phillip Gray, a visiting assistant professor in political science who teaches these classes in Qatar, is aware that exposing students to the concept of democracy could have a far-reaching impact. "Often students assume that the president of the U.S. is similar to the emir of Qatar. They want to know why the president worries about what Congress is saying," said Gray. "I have to make sure they understand that democracy doesn't mean getting what you want. Rather it often means

getting in heated arguments and making compromises. We talk about how people in America can be arguing all the time, but the government can still be freakishly stable."

Discussions about the Arab Spring and the war in Syria have arisen in Gray's class, and he helps students think about ways to resolve differences peacefully. An anti-Muslim video that was not favorably received in some Arab countries in 2012 generated much concern, he said. "Students wanted to know why something they see as irredeemably disrespectful would be permitted. I had to explain the tradition of free and open debate, which is a new concept for many students." Gray reported that sometimes he gets a question along the lines of "Does it seem like democracy could appear somewhere else?" To him, the implied connotation is, "Like where I'm from."

"I think all Aggies around the world should know that this is a win-win situation," says Kent. "It's a win for Texas A&M; we are able to internationalize our campus and reputation. It's a win for Qatar, since we've graduated more than 400 Aggie engineers and helped develop the country's innovation and technological expertise. And it's a win for the students who have life-changing experiences."

hanks to Texas A&M at Qatar, ideas that may help transform hearts and opinions on both sides of the world are taking root. At the same time, a whole new Aggie heritage is developing in the Middle East—an Aggie cricket team for starters.

Mary Katebah, married now and a new mother, plans to pass on the traditions of Texas A&M to her children. The whole package, including the wild enthusiasm and the words to the Aggie War Hymn. "I will absolutely be teaching her. I tell my little baby girl all the time, 'That's where you're going." And sounding like Aggie parents everywhere, she added, "I will convince her." ...

-BY JEANNIE RALSTON

TOP 5 WAYS TO GIVE

Like most students, Qatar Aggies benefit from private gifts from individuals and corporations that en - hance their college experience and bring financial peace of mind. John Small '92, director of the Texas A&M at Qatar Office of Strategic Partnerships and Alumni Relations, gave us five fundraising priorities:

- 1) Study abroad experiences
- 2) Merit-based scholarships
- 3) Student activities funds
- 4) Faculty support
- 5) STEM outreach programs

"Study abroad experiences are invaluable to students at both the College Station and Qatar campuses," Small said. "It's a win-win for both sides." The larger program involves a dozen or more students

from Doha who come to Texas to "switch places" with a dozen or so College Station Aggies (who likewise go to Doha) for a whole semester. Another such study abroad experience is the Spring Leadership Exchange. Each spring, student leaders from the College Station and Qatar campuses visit their partner institution during spring break.

"Competitive, merit-based scholarships are also on our bucket list," he said. "They often assist the students who have the most need on our Qatar campus."

Support for student activities at Texas A&M at Qatar could be directed to student government, the Student Engineers Council or any of more than 20 student organizations and clubs that range from





Clockwise: About 38 percent of the student body at Texas A&M at Qatar is female, a higher percentage than in the engineering college in College Station. Graduates of Texas A&M at Qatar share the Aggie Ring tradition, but men's rings are silver, as gold is traditionally worn only by women. Dean and CEO Mark Weichold '78 has years of experience with the Texas A&M faculty and administration, as well as with the electrical engineering industry.



hosting lectures and art exhibitions to sports and environmental awareness activities. "Our campus culture is much like that in College Station," Small said. "These gifts are a great way to ensure that the experience here is similar to that in College Station, with an emphasis on building leadership skills and a service mentality."

While faculty chairs, professor-ships and fellowships are few and far between at Texas A&M at Qatar compared to the College Station campus, the university must continue to attract the best faculty in the world. "We have only two faculty chairs and two faculty fellowships for more than 80 faculty," Small said. "Private funds to support faculty are often the missing link

that can make some really amazing things happen." One success story in this area is a \$500,000 faculty chair funded by Qatar Petrochemical Co., which brought Nobel Laureate Robert Grubs, a world-renowned chemist, to the campus in 2012.

Texas A&M at Qatar also seeks funding for numerous STEM outreach programs directed to children attending community schools who are interested in pursuing scienceand engineering-related degrees.

To learn more, contact John Small '99 at john.small@qatar.tamu.edu.



Introducing the 2014 Sterling C. Evans Medal Recipients

It's a universal truth that you give where your heart is, and that adage couldn't be more fitting for the 2014 Sterling C. Evans Medal recipients. The Texas A&M Foundation awarded its highest honor in February to philanthropists Dorothy and Arthur "Artie" McFerrin '65 of Humble and James "Doug" Pitcock Jr. '49 of Houston. The love these philanthropists share for Texas A&M is transforming the university and influencing generations of Aggies.

The Foundation created the Evans Medal for people just like the McFerrins and Pitcock, said Foundation President Ed Davis '67: "The McFerrins are incredible. They may be the second largest donors to Texas A&M, but you'd never know it. They are the salt of the earth. They are absolutely in love with this institution, and that love is reflected in their giving. Doug's love of the university is also legendary, though perhaps not as wellknown. His joys in life are building and giving. He has overseen the construction of countless highways across Texas, and Texas A&M is just one beneficiary of his philanthropy. He often declines recognition, so he never gets enough credit."

Dorothy & firtie McFerrin '65
"I saw something magical and wanted to be part of it."

The McFerrins have contributed more than \$40 million to Texas A&M for chemical engineering, athletics and education. They both give their time, leading and serving on advisory boards and inspiring others. Athletics initially drew Artie McFerrin to Texas A&M. He was smitten in 1955 when his seventh grade football team took a school field trip from Beaumont to the Texas A&M/Rice University game in Houston. It was Paul "Bear" Bryant's second year coaching the Aggies, and they came from behind to score three touchdowns in the final minutes and win 20-12. "The Aggies were all fired up. I saw something magical and wanted to be part of it," he recalls.

Six years later Artie enrolled at Texas A&M. "The campus was Spartan, the Corps was like boot camp, and the added load of classwork and labs was tough. I thought I'd really fouled up," he said. He persisted, though, discovering an inner strength that would serve him well.

Artie earned his chemical engineering degree in 1965, and the next year he married Dorothy, a Beaumont girl he met on a blind date. They returned to Texas A&M so he could pursue a master's in chemical engineering, and Dorothy worked for Bechtel Corp. which was installing a variable energy cyclotron on campus. With his master's degree nearly completed (he received it in 1969), Artie joined Shell Oil in 1967, and the couple moved to Deer Park, Texas.

During an economic downturn four years later, he was laid off. He took a commission sales job with Success Motivation International of Waco. Savings helped sustain their growing family, which now included their children Jeffrey and Jennifer. Dorothy worked as a community newspaper reporter at night, when Artie could be home with the children. Artie realized he was "not cut out to be a salesman." The couple's savings were almost gone when a friend asked Artie if he would be interested in consulting with smaller chemical companies. He seized the opportunity.

GIVING SEROM THEIR HEARS

In 1975, Artie and a partner invested \$5,000 each to open KMCO Inc. By the third year, Artie had bought out his partner. With the company flourishing, Dorothy was able to refocus her attention on her family and young children. For years, she said, she was "Mrs. PTA." When her children were in high school, she returned to college at the University of Houston at Clear Lake. She earned undergraduate degrees in psychology and sociology and a master's degree in criminal justice that led to crime prevention work with children in gangs.

McFerrin '65 Professor of Practice in entrepreneurship, which brings industry experts to our classrooms and is helping us build a new undergraduate Engineering Education Complex."

Winning On and Off the Field

A golf trip to Scotland almost nine years ago with Texas A&M officials and supporters opened the McFerrins' eyes to the university's athletic needs.

They agreed to donate \$9 million for the McFerrin Indoor Athletic Center. Artie became a leader in the 12th

offers personalized student assistance, including academic coaching, study skills, time management workshops, tutoring and referrals to other campus services.

The center's impact is "immense," said Dr. James B. Kracht, the center's executive director and assistant provost for undergraduate studies. Kracht notes that the center is helping to reduce the number of students on academic probation, increasing retention and giving many students the skills and confidence to achieve their goals.

"Now Dorothy's vision is making an impact on thousands of students," said CEHD Dean Doug Palmer. He noted that the McFerrins also helped kickstart efforts to launch the Texas A&M Coaching Academy, a collaboration between the CEHD and three other Texas A&M entitities that will educate students wanting to become coaches, provide alternative career paths for athletes and develop continuing education/networking for current coaches.

The couple also honored other close friends, former Texas A&M President Robert Gates and his wife, Becky. "We love the Gateses," said Dorothy. "When I told Becky I wanted to support her and her campus projects, she said we should do something for the youngest Aggies." They established a \$1 million endowment in 2006 for the Becky Gates Children's Center, a daycare and preschool opened in 1998 for the children of Texas A&M faculty, students and staff. The McFerrins also made a gift to name the Bob Gates Ballroom in the renovated Memorial Student Center.

Artie, who has served on the Corps Advisory Council, also has generously supported the Corps of Cadets. "Texas A&M offers something most schools don't offer," said Artie McFerrin, who was named a 2008 Distinguished Alumnus by The Association of Former Students. "The work ethic, attitudes, values, and teamwork instilled here help to create leaders who can do great things, and I want to support those who are making the world better for future generations."

"I want to support those who are making the world better for future generations."

-ARTIE MCFERRIN '65

KMCO now earns about \$200 million annually providing custom chemical processing and specialty manufacturing for some of the world's largest chemical, automotive, oil, and industrial companies. Artie McFerrin is KMCO's chairman, and his son, Jeffrey '92, also a chemical engineer, is president of KMCO LP. Together, he and Artie established the McFerrin Professorship Fund in Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M.

Extraordinary flumnus

Because he "loved the people in the chemical engineering department," Artie stayed in touch with his professors and began making small contributions in the late 1980s. An Outstanding Alumnus of both chemical engineering and the Dwight Look College of Engineering, he served on department and college advisory boards. In 2004 the McFerrins committed \$10 million for a chemical engineering endowment, and the department was subsequently named for Artie.

"The McFerrins are passionate about helping us prepare the Aggie engineer of the future," said Dr. Katherine Banks, vice chancellor and engineering dean. "Their most recent gifts totaling \$3 million will support the Artie

Man Foundation, advancing to chairman last year. During the past decade, the McFerrins have given \$25 million to expand athletic facilities, including the Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball, the Bill Byrne Student-Athlete Center at Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park, the R.C. Slocum Nutrition Center and Kyle Field.

Former Athletic Director Bill Byrne credits the McFerrins, who have been inducted into the Letterman's Association Hall of Honor, with improving Aggie sports over the last 10 years: "They raised the bar in giving, and others took notice."

A Boost for Future Educators

As their friendship grew, Dorothy McFerrin, who serves on the Dean's Development Council in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), and Marilyn Byrne, whose experience ranges from secondary school teacher to college dean, began discussing how to increase support for education students.

Subsequently, The McFerrins donated \$1 million to endow the Marilyn Kent Byrne Student Success Center, opened in 2007 in the CEHD, and a similarly named faculty chair. The center James "Doug" Pitcock Jr. '19
"Texas A&M is my family."

Most of Doug Pitcock's \$7.7 million in Texas A&M current gifts support the Corps of Cadets and Zachry Department of Civil Engineering. The first in his family to attend college, Pitcock chose Texas A&M because he wanted "the best education" and thought he might have to serve in World War II. The war ended when he was 18, and although he still considered a military career, he studied engineering so he could "get a good paying job."

His parents borrowed money to pay tuition and expenses while he worked summers and holidays to help. Pitcock admits he "was not a scholar," and quipped that he "squeezed a four-year civil engineering degree into four and a half years." He looks back proudly, though, on his Corps experience, especially during the 1947 hazing controversy that threatened the continuation of the Corps. Shortly after university officials abolished hazing, all freshman cadets were moved to a campus annex at the deactivated Bryan Air Force Base. Pitcock was among two dozen upperclassmen in the Corps who volunteered to move to the annex with three cadet companies. "We moved out there to save the Corps," he said. It was a hardship, but it is one of the best things I did in my life."

In Love With Heavy Construction

Pitcock graduated in 1950, becoming a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve and marrying his sweetheart, Eleanor "Puddie" Hall. He went to work as a project estimator for Farnsworth and Chambers Co., one of the top construction engineering firms in Houston, and "fell in love with heavy construction." In June, the Korean War started, and in November the U.S. Army called Pitcock to active duty. He was assigned to a military intelligence unit in Washington, D.C., tasked with providing top-secret

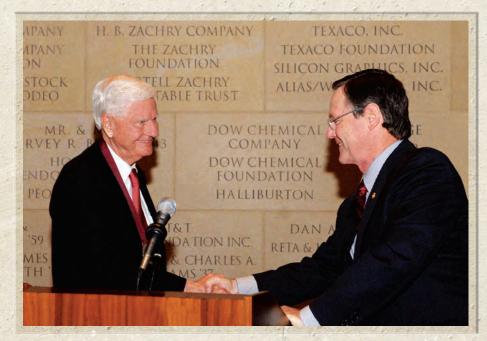
security clearances, attained the rank of first lieutenant and was offered a regular Army commission.

In 1952 he returned to Farnsworth and Chambers. His family life flourished as he and Puddie welcomed two children, Lisa and James D. III. Three years later, his boss recommended him to "two boys from Princeton who had moved to Houston to make their fortune." J.K. and C.K. Williams had been developing apartments and wanted a partner who could help them get into highway construction. Pitcock agreed to join them for 10 percent of the company, a starting salary of \$150 a week and future profit sharing. The Williams Brothers provided \$50,000, and they formed Williams Brothers Construction Co. in 1955. The next year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the law creating the national highway system.

By 1984 Pitcock had bought out both brothers and was the company's sole owner, chairman and chief executive officer. Under his leadership, Williams Brothers Construction became one of the largest highway and bridge contractors in the state and nation, completing more than 350 projects in excess of \$13 billion. "The key to our success is vertical integration. We do a lot of things subcontractors do, and that gives us a tremendous competitive advantage," said Pitcock, who has garnered many industry honors and served as national and state president of the Associated General Contractors of America and was named one of the top 100 Construction Professionals of the 20th Century by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. He was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the National Transportation Policy Study Commis-

'The most valuable thing I got out of college was in making friends for life."

-Doug Pitcock '49



Van H. Taylor '71 (right), chairman-elect of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees, congratulates Doug Pitcock '49.

"It took us nine years to make a profit," recalled Pitcock. "Heavy construction is the most capital-intensive industry there is, and I woke up every day worrying about going broke." sion, which impacted the federal highway system across the country.

Forefather of Corps 21 Scholarships

A Texas A&M donor for more than three decades, Pitcock made his first major gift to the Corps in 2004, giving \$100,000 for two General Rudder Corps Schol-

arships, matched by gifts from Bum Bright. He was impressed with the impact of matching gifts and two years later founded the Corps of Cadets 21st Century Scholarships with a \$1 million gift to match ten \$100,000 endowments. He hoped the program would create 20 new scholarships to help "diversify the Corps and ensure that future military leaders came from Texas A&M." It was so successful that more than 30 scholarships were started in three years and in 2010 Pitcock gave another \$1 million to match 10 more Corps 21 scholarships.

"Without these scholarships, which provide \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year, many men and women would not be able to attend Texas A&M and join the Corps, said retired Army Brig. Gen. and Corps Commandant Joe E. Ramirez Jr. '79.

Pitcock, who was inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor in March, also established the Comman dant's Commissioning Incentive Fund and the Darling Recruiting Program, and he supports the Hollingsworth Leadership Development Program, which prepares cadets who do not plan to accept a military commission for leadership roles in non-profits, government service or private industry.

"Doug Pitcock has provided unwavering support to the Corps. A prominent businessman, he understands the value of leadership skills in today's global environment and knows the Corps develops well-educated leaders of character. His legacy can be seen in cadets who have become successful leaders in the military and business world and in our communities, state and nation," added Ramirez.

Road-building Benefactor

A 2006 Outstanding Engineering Alumnus, Pitcock also has shown loyalty to the Zachry Department of Civil Engineer ing and Dwight Look College of Engineering. He gave more than \$1 million through Williams Brothers Construction to create six department endowments—two scholarships, two graduate fellowships and two professorships—as

Evans Medal RECIPIENTS 1998 Sterling C. Evans '21 William C. McCord '49 John H. Lindsey '44 2001 Leslie L. Appelt '41 H. R. "Bum" Bright '43 Minnie Belle Heep Herman F. Heep '20 Jon L. Hagler '58 George P. Mitchell '40 H. B. "Bartell" Zachry Jr. '54 2010 L. Lowry Mays '57 Jack E. Brown '46 James K. B. "Jim" Nelson '49 Dan A. Hughes '51 Dudley J. Hughes '51 Nancy M. Terry Howard L. Terry Reta K. Haynes Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46 Patricia C. Kruger

Weldon D. Kruger '53

Dorothy F. McFerrin Arthur R. "Artie" McFerrin '65 James "Doug" Pitcock Jr. '49

well as a college-level faculty fellowship.

Dr. John Niedzwecki, former depart ment head, said Pitcock's "tremendous support" touches undergraduates, grad uates and faculty and has helped to strengthen the department's national reputation for excellence. In 2002 Pitcock was recognized by the department as a Distinguished Graduate in Civil Engineering, and Niedzwecki describes Pitcock as "a sharp businessman and one of the most enjoyable, down-to-earth former students I know." Pitcock, he added, participates with his company's executives in supporting the heavy civil

construction initiative within the department's construction engineering and management program.

An active member of the Texas A&M University System's Texas Transportation Institute's (TTI) advisory council for the past decade, Pitcock gave \$1 million to TTI in 2008. That gift, one of the largest TTI has ever received, allowed the institute to pursue vital new research funding sources.

"There's not a mile of highway in Texas that hasn't been impacted by our research—saving lives, time, money and resources," said Dennis Christiansen, TTI director, "and Doug's gift has helped us do that."

Named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2008 by The Association of Former Students, Pitcock is a Diamond Endowed Century Club member and has been generous to other Texas A&M programs, including the Cushing Library Fund, the George Bush Library Center, the 12th Man Foundation (including a \$1 million gift for the Kyle Field renovation), the President's Excellence Fund and the Provost's Office Improvement Fund.

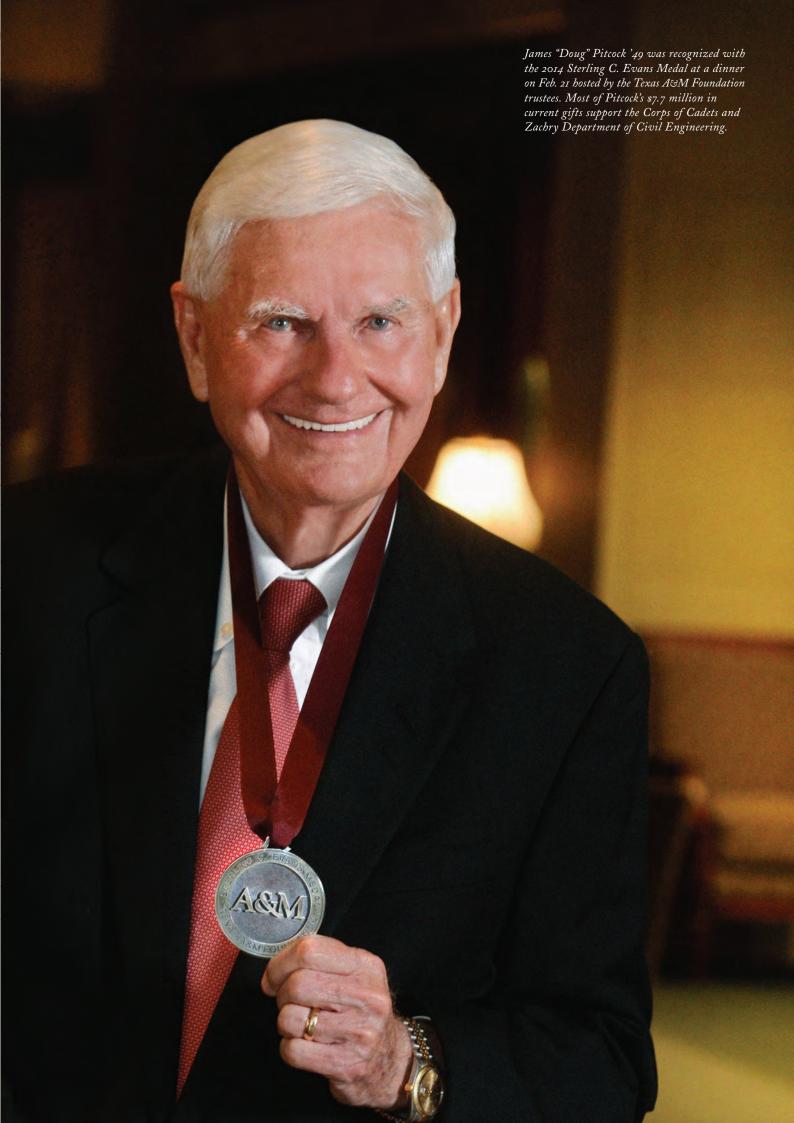
Pitcock's generosity goes far beyond today's Texas A&M scholarships and programs. A significant gift made through his estate plan will benefit Texas A&M long after his lifetime.

Tragically, Pitcock's son and daughter passed away before having any children of their own, and Puddie, who was affectionately known in Houston as "The Coat Lady" because of her many years of anonymously giving coats to the homeless and needy, died in 2008 after 58 years of marriage.

"Texas A&M is my family now," said Pitcock, reflecting that his father was prophetic when he told him the most valuable thing he got out of college "might not come out of the classroom but will be making friends for life." ...

-BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

To watch a video about Sterling C. Evans '21, visit give.am/EvansMedal2014.



Aggie Airwaves

Opportunity



Community volunteers man station phones during KAMU Public Broadcasting's annual fundraising pledge drives.

Growing up, we didn't watch a lot of TV or listen to the radio. My mom had classical or soft jazz music playing throughout the intercom system in the house most of the time. If the television was on, it was PBS or news.

My mother was a stay-at-home mom at that time and although she normally had projects for us, she would also allow us to watch PBS Kids programs on a limited basis. My sister Penny was a little older and in her Donny Osmond phase, but my brother Paul and I would run into the living room as soon as we heard the theme song from Sesame Street. The lyrics still come to me vividly as I think back.

Sunny day

Sweepin' the clouds away

On my way to where the air is sweet Can you tell me how to get,

How to get to Sesame Street...

Paul and I would sit watching every moment, turning to each other to sound out the words. I was 5 and he was 3. With great pride and enthusiasm, we would read the words out loud as they appeared on the screen: C-A-T, H-A-T, T-H-A-T. By kindergarten we already knew our alphabet and a few words. These early childhood memories of learning through musical and educational TV programs would come full circle many years later. And they would have a much bigger impact on my life than I could have imagined.

Big Bird and So Much More

I arrived at KAMU in August of 2006 after working in commercial TV in

Dallas and public radio in Commerce, Texas. When I walked into the building, I immediately heard the iconic "Sunny Days" song from my childhood. Sure enough, Sesame Street was playing on the lobby monitor. I smiled as I realized that this is where I was supposed to work—not only in public or commercial broadcasting, but in educational broadcasting,

Today, as you walk into the Moore Communications Building, which houses KAMU Public Broadcasting, on the Texas A&M University campus, you are greeted by a sevenfoot cardboard cutout of Big Bird. Yes, the same Big Bird you probably remember from your childhood and the same Big Bird that made it to the highlights of the presidential debates back in 2012. Lining the main hallway is a compilation of signs highlighting the TV and radio shows that we air from the building. Programs such as NOVA, Nature, Antiques Roadshow for TV and A Prairie Home Companion, Morning Edition and NPR News for radio. On first glance, you are captivated with other cutouts of childhood friends such as Clifford the Big Red Dog, Barney and Arthur. However, if you peek behind the curtains, you will see a lot more going on at KAMU Media than you might expect.



KAMU TV's On-Air Courses

So, what do you want to learn this week? How about finishing up your high school diploma through a GED by watching classes and test reviews on TV? Maybe you'd like to take an anthropology class from home, with or without college credits? Are you worried about the upcoming freeze? KAMU programming can give you ideas for how to protect your plants. Or you can get some creative suggestions for how to ensure that your children learn their numbers and letters.

KAMU has been serving the Brazos Valley area for more than 40 years with technology to educate and enhance people's lives. Primarily serving as PBS and NPR affiliate stations, it is also a conduit of education through new, old and emerging technologies for all ages.

While peeking behind the curtains and cardboard cutouts, you'll also see a course for Texas A&M students taught by Dr. Rodney Zent, our general manager. These students produce, host and direct their own TV show, which airs on KAMU TV. You will see other Texas A&M course studies on the air in anthropology, architecture and biology. Our program also provides an international water class, which highlights the technology behind clean water sources. It is simultaneously attended by students in College Station, Mexico, Brazil and other countries.

Enlightened Frequency Modulation

On the FM side of the house, local educators and specialists broadcast audio programs on topics ranging from local history and ethics, to chemistry, engineering and veterinary medicine. Musical offerings include classical, big band, jazz and country classics.

A live call-in program at noon on Thursdays called "Gardening Success" is hosted by Texas A&M horticulturalist Dr. Doug Welsh '79. This popular program includes tips and strategies for "gardeners and yardeners," as Welsh calls them. He provides expert, valuable information on protecting your plants not only from the bitter cold, but also from the sweltering heat, insects, poisons and more.

KAMU has been on the cutting edge of broadcast technology for more than 40 years. Through two-way interactive videoconferencing via the Trans-Texas Videoconference Network, Skype and YouTube, we provide educational opportunities to those who may otherwise not have the means or funds to do so. The synergy between Texas A&M University, broadcasting technologies, video conferencing, web and more is a positive outcome for the community.

Zent, who also teaches a TV production class for agricultural journalism students, says KAMU is "a community anchor point for education and enlightenment for a wide and varied

citizenry." He believes the most important mission of free, over-the-air TV is to serve the children of our community. "In our kids we see hope for a better tomorrow," he said, "and it is only through their positive attitude toward education that we all will prosper."

In Search of Sustainable Funding

You may have heard the familiar, "Programming support is brought to you by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and viewers like you." It's true. KAMU programs and technology are largely funded through individual charitable gifts. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which was established by the U.S. Congress in 1967 provides a grant to stations like KAMU, but the amount is neither guaranteed nor consistent. In fact, a portion of the grant has been rescinded for the past few years.

The original KAMU endowment, which is managed by the Texas A&M Foundation, was created and funded by the Coulter & Lily Rush Hoppess Foundation in 2006. To continue our lifelong learning mission and to cultivate new pathways in technology for education, endowments and other financial gifts are essential.

Whether it's Downton Abbey, Antiques Roadshow, This Old House, classical music, jazz or news, all programs on KAMU TV/FM Media aim to provide educational entertainment for all. So in the spirit of Word Girl, Big Bird and Elmo...

Today's words are: "lifelong learning." Let's spell them out together.......

-BY VICKI HOLLOWAY

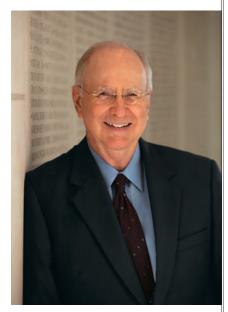
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[®]Foundation



Dr. Ed Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation, has joined the CDO Career Network Leadership Council.

Davis Joins National Leadership Council

Dr. Ed Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation, was invited to join the CDO Career Network Leadership Council, a premiere professional network for chief development officers (CDOs), CEOs, CFOs, board members and other social profit leaders.

The council will provide resources and networking capabilities to current and aspiring chief development and advancement officers in all social profit sectors: education, arts and culture, health care, social services, and other 501(c)(3) organizations.

Trustees Honor White and Wilkinson

David Wilkinson '87, senior regional director of major gifts, and Sondra White '87, marketing communications manager, received the 2014 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



David Wilkinson '87 and Sondra White '87 received the 2014 Texas A&M Foundation Trustees' Awards.

priorities. Board of Trustees Chairman Charles H. Gregory '64 presented the honorees with a plaque and \$500 at a staff meeting in February.

Wilkinson, who joined the Foundation in 1999, worked as a development officer for the Dwight Look College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences before being promoted to his current position in 2006. He is now responsible for identifying and soliciting major gifts for the eastern United States.

"I'm honored to receive the Trustees Award. Any success I've enjoyed is shared with many others both within the Foundation and at Texas A&M University. Serving Texas A&M and assisting Aggies wanting to support deserving students is an extremely rewarding experience," Wilkinson said.

White, an employee for 10 years, is responsible for the marketing department's longer-format communications and manages executive communications, news releases and print publications, including *Spirit* magazine.

"I couldn't ask for a better place to work," White said. "We're all here to give young people a shot at a unique college experience like the one I had at Texas A&M. It's nice to go home each night knowing that."

Staff Changes

Caroline Gunn '10 joined the Foundation in June 2013 as assistant director of development for Mays Business



Caroline Gunn '10 boot companies in Mercedes, Texas.

Darin Paine joined the Foundation in August 2013 as director of



development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas A&M AgriLife. He formerly served as the director of development for

tion's senior direc-

tor of development

for the Texas A&M

University School

of Law in January.

previously

School. Previously,

she worked as the

director of corpo-

rate sponsorships

for Rios of Mer-

cedes and Ander-

son Bean cowboy

Darin Paine development for the College of Agriculture at Montana State.

Myke Holt began as the Founda-



worked at the Myke Holt University of Texas at Arlington as the leadership gifts officer for its College of Liberal Arts.

She

Kyle Bryson '10 joined the Foun-



dation in March as assistant director of development for the Corps of Cadets. He previously worked for the Baylor Health Care System at

Kyle Bryson' 10 Care System at Irving Healthcare Foundation, where he served as development specialist.



clear and Biomed-Reagan Chessher '97 ical Engineering Departments in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. He previously worked for the 12th Man Founda-



tion, most recently serving as senior vice president for annual programs.

Reagan Chess -

her '97 joined the Foundation in

March as director

of development for

the Aerospace, Nu-

After fundraising for Mays Business School for

Jessica McCann '07 four years, Jessica McCann '07 is now senior director of development for the George Bush School of Government and Public

Service.



edt '83 joins the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as its senior director of develop-

Steve Blomst-

Steve Blomstedt '83 ment after eight



years of service with the College of Education and Human Development.

Larry Zuber is now overseeing fundraising for Tevas As M Galves

Larry Zuber Texas A&M Galveston and the Texas A&M Health Science Center, as well as the College of Architecture, which he has served for 14 years.

Jackman Retires After 24 Years

The friendly face of Linda Jackman '88 may be missing from the Jon L. Hagler Center, but there is no doubt that it will soon be seen on many golf courses. Following 24 years of service at the Texas A&M Foundation and its related trust company, Jackman retired from her position as controller in



January. She maintained financial records and managed the accounting department. Her position is filled by Tori Janousek, manager

Linda Jackman '88

of accounting.

Employees Give Back

Each year, Texas A&M Foundation employees participate in the United Way campaign to give back to the Brazos Valley community. For the third year in a row, 100 percent of Foundation staff donated, raising \$10,577 for families in need.

Foundation teams competed to raise food donations for the Brazos Valley Food Bank's BackPack program, bringing in more than 4,000 items to feed children in need. Employees also sorted and packed food for the Food Bank.

Row 1: Toni Ryburn, Debora Voorhies, Lori Eike '84, Shannon Zwernemann '03; Row 2: Rachel Dohmann '07, Sondra White '87, Mary Beeson; Row 3: Marcy Ullmann '86, Heather Crawford '98, Monika Blackwell, Amy Day, Jesse Natal; Row 4: Jody Ford '99, Amy Fritcher '98, Jennifer Skains



William O. Adams '44 was able to finish college with financial assistance from Dr. Daniel Russell. Grateful for the opportunity, Adams funded an endowed gift to establish the Dr. Daniel Russell Memorial Scholarship and to carry on the legacy of giving.

Postscript

aised on a farm in a family of ro during the Great Depression, I was fortunate to enter the A. & M. College of Texas with seven dollars in my pocket. Despite my ambition, however, graduating took somewhat of a miracle.

I sailed along smoothly through my first couple of years; I studied dairy science and worked at the campus creamery, enjoying the college atmosphere. Then came the fall of 1942—my junior year—when my appendix burst, threatening not just my life but also my shot at a college education.

The incident resulted in a midnight surgery at the campus hospital. After the procedure, I suffered from an infected wound, followed by an onslaught of other ailments. My predicted six-day stay at the hospital turned into six weeks. When I was finally well enough to leave, I learned that I could not check out of the hospital until I paid my \$100 operation fee, a great amount in Depression years.

People around campus were always saying, "When you are at the end of the road with nowhere to turn, go see Dr. Daniel Russell." So I asked for permission to leave the facility just long enough to find a solution. With that, I began what seemed like a hundred-mile walk of hope. I was very weak and it took a long time to get to his office, but boy was it worth the trek.

I had never met the professor, but he lived up to his reputation: With-



Keeping the Spirit Alive

out hesitation, he welcomed me into his office and listened compassionately as I explained my situation. Then, he pulled out his checkbook and gave me the \$100 I needed to pay my debt.

Although one burden was lifted after I paid the hospital bill, I was not completely out of the woods. I was too weak to return to my physically de-



manding job, and without income, I would be unable to complete my education. I planned to finish the semester and then enlist.

Dr. Daniel Russell I had practically packed my bags when Dr. Russell advised me that a student position had become open in the co-op housing administration. With this job, I was able to ultimately graduate from Texas A&M and receive a naval officer commission. I went directly into the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Before I left Dr. Russell's office nearly 70 years ago, he told me, "This is not a loan. If you can ever afford to repay me, I ask you to use the money to help another student."

With this generosity in mind many years later, my late wife and I funded an endowed gift to establish the Dr. Daniel Russell Memorial Scholarship through the Texas A&M Foundation. With tuition worries behind them, recipients of this scholarship can focus on what's ahead and explore their interests along the way.

It is my hope that these students will return the favor by contributing to their communities and by being successful in their future careers—to ultimately continue the legacy that started with a single act of self-sacrifice.

Dr. Russell made all the difference in my life, and I hope to continue his legacy by making a difference in many students' lives. By supporting fellow Aggies in need, the endowment will not only preserve the memory of Dr. Russell, but in time, it will also cultivate his spirit for selfless giving.

For the values he imparted on me, I cannot thank him enough. &

-BY WILLIAM O. ADAMS '44

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Visitors to "Mapping Historic Aggieland" can see the campus changes over the decades, zoom in and out, and select points of interest to reveal historic photographs from the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.

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