

SPIRIT



Art for A&M's Sake
*Exhibits in the University Art Galleries
beckon passersby to explore the art world*



Deep Sea Exploration

A POWERFUL INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
IN MARINE GEOLOGY OFFERS AGGIES THE CHANCE
TO STUDY THE EARTH'S HISTORY AT ITS CORE

Sociology Savant

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR JOE FEAGIN
IS A SCHOLAR, MENTOR AND LEGEND
IN THE FIELD OF SOCIOLOGY

Transformative Giving

THE FOUNDATION HONORS THREE COUPLES
WITH THE 2015 STERLING C. EVANS MEDAL

Inspired By Maroon Coats

When I first envisioned the Texas A&M Foundation Maroon Coats, I never imagined that this gifted group of student leaders would directly influence our donors to interact with their organization in such creative ways. I could share numerous anecdotes about former students who were inspired by our Maroon Coats, but these three stories take the cake.

The first story begins at a fall 2008 tailgate, when charter members of the Maroon Coats ate lunch with donors at the Jon L. Hagler Center. Maroon Coat Nick Adams '09 sat next to David Wolf '52 and his wife Harriet. After exchanging Aggie stories, Wolf scoffed at the plastic buttons on Adams' new blazer, saying that such a special student organization deserved something better. Now, thanks to a generous endowment from the Wolfs in 2010, the standard-issue plastic buttons on each Maroon Coat are replaced with custom metal buttons etched with the Texas A&M University seal. A minor alteration, perhaps, but one that gives our Maroon Coats an added badge of confidence and style.



Jean and Skip Johnson '52 funded a new Aggie ring for Maroon Coat Kayla Valis '12 after learning she had lost hers but could not afford a replacement.

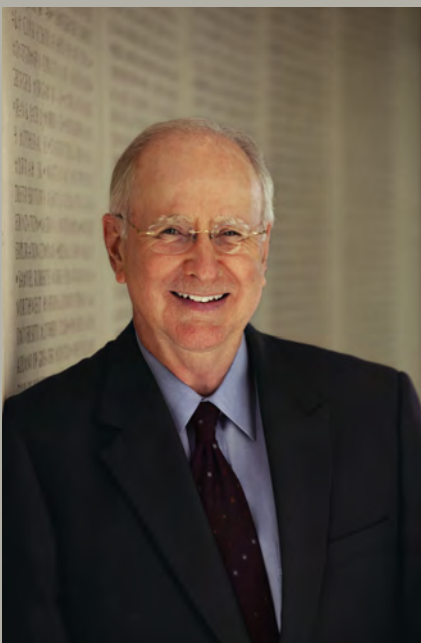
Jean and Skip Johnson '52 are the protagonists in my second story. After interacting with Maroon Coats at Foundation events for many years, they have bonded with the group more than most. When the Johnsons overheard that Maroon Coat Kayla Valis '12 had lost her Aggie ring but could not afford to replace it, they bought her a new one without a second thought.

While the Foundation funds the actual coats, students purchase their own less-casual Maroon Coat uniforms, such as polo

shirts and fleece jackets. The Johnsons would have none of that, so they also donated \$5,000 to cover these extra expenses for our often cash-strapped students.

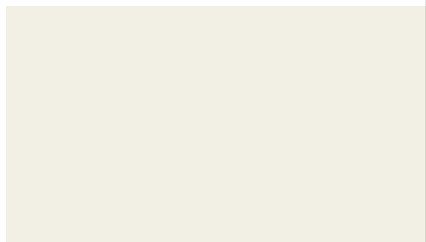
And did I mention the recent \$25,000 endowed gift from Ann and Robert Leitz III '69 of Shreveport, Louisiana, who are so enamored by our Maroon Coats that they, too, want to advance their mission as ambassadors for the Foundation?

These gifts and experiences are proof that the student arm of the Foundation has not only enriched the lives of our donors but also has given these talented young people insight into the altruism that defines so many Texas Aggies.



Eddie J. Davis

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



The International Ocean Discovery Program's (IODP) repository boosts the university's reputation. With donor support, Interim Head of Oceanography Debbie Thomas and IODP Director Brad Clement are working to ensure that it remains at Texas A&M. » **p.16**

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The Texas A&M University Coaching Academy provides valuable resources for current and aspiring coaches to make a difference on and off the sidelines. » **p.26**

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Two "Byzantine" Tiffany vases, c. 1917, Bill and Irma Runyon Art Collection, Texas A&M Foundation, Forsyth Galleries, Texas A&M University.

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Jim Lyle (p. 3; 28, bottom; 38; 42)

Caleb Stewart '15 (p. 14-15)

International Ocean Discovery Program

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Texas A&M College of Architecture (inside back cover, top)

Texas A&M College of Science (p. 9, bottom)

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine

& Biomedical Sciences (p. 10, bottom left)

Texas A&M Dwight Look College of

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Texas A&M University Press (p. 44, left)

Texas A&M University Libraries (p. 6, top)

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COVER PHOTO

The Texas A&M Forsyth Gallery is one of two galleries that make up the University Art Galleries, housed in the Memorial Student Center. It displays art from the galleries' permanent collection as well as rotating exhibitions ranging from traditional fine arts to anthropological artifacts.

Lois and Sally Beach '81 established endowments to create scholarships for future generations of Aggie students.

The Legacy

The Beach family has certainly dealt with heartbreak in their lives. Shortly after he graduated from Texas A&M University, Lois Beach's son Michael '74 passed away unexpectedly of viral pneumonia while serving as a Naval ensign on the USS *Roark*. Seven years later, her 60-year-old husband, Texas A&M Professor William "Bill" Beach, also died.

In response, Lois, her daughter Sally '81 and her son Dan '78 vowed to create something positive out of these tragedies. Since the importance of education was always emphasized in the Beach household, helping Texas A&M students in memory of Mike and Bill seemed fitting.

"When my son died overseas, we decided the best way to memorialize him was to establish an endowed scholarship," Lois said. "Then when Bill died, he was so dedicated to teaching that we decided a second endowed scholarship was the way to go."

But Lois and Sally didn't stop there. They understand that interest from their endowments will forever create scholarships for Texas A&M students, and that by adding to their endowments, the scholarships will grow in value and number. So as a final tribute to the men they loved, Lois and Sally are providing gifts in their wills to supplement the two memorial scholarship endowments.

A charitable bequest included in a will or a living trust is one of the eas-



From Heartbreak to Hope

iest ways to leave a lasting impact on Texas A&M. This form of giving enables the donor to retain assets during his or her lifetime and lessens the burden of taxes on family members after the donor's death. It's one of the most straightforward ways to give, requiring only the help of an attorney to specify a gift to the Texas A&M Foundation in a will or living trust.

Since Bill originally suggested the idea of a scholarship in Mike's memory, Sally and Lois know he would be pleased with their estate planning decision.

"My father didn't believe in flowers," Sally said of Bill, a professor of mechanized agriculture. "Flowers are beautiful, but they die. My father wanted Mike to be memorialized by something that could live on."

After serving both domestically and overseas as an agricultural engineer for the United States Agency for International Development, Bill worked in the Office of International Programs at Texas A&M for seven years before teaching from 1966 until his death in 1982. Lois earned a journalism degree and has found ways to share her writing and editing skills

throughout the family's many moves. Sally is a professor of literacy education at the University of Oklahoma and, like her father, takes her teaching skills all over the world.

Though Bill is now gone, his memorial scholarship funded through the Foundation continues to help students gain college degrees—14 thus far. The Michael Beach Scholarship, funded through The Association of Former Students, likewise has supported the education of more than 20 Texas A&M Naval ROTC students. This would have pleased Mike, his mother said, since he loved his time in the Corps of Cadets.

By bolstering these scholarships after they themselves pass on, Lois and Sally are ensuring that memories of Bill and Mike continue touching lives through the gift of education. 🌸

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

Letters

Share Your Comments

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

SONDRA WHITE '87
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MONIKA BLACKWELL
Assistant Editor

Fall 2014 Spirit magazine



Castiglion Fiorentino is the setting for the College of Architecture's oldest study abroad program at the Santa Chiara Center.



REVISITING SPIRIT

I want to thank you for putting out one of the best magazines at Texas A&M University. The magazine came some time back, but from time to time, I pick it up and read and/or reread a story.

That was a great story on James "Doug" Pitcock Jr. '49 in the spring 2014 issue. His picture is a little different from when I knew him at Texas A&M.

The article on Sara's Aggies is what the Aggie family does.

My grandson graduated in December in the Class of '13, and I paid all of his expenses. Needless to say it wasn't cheap.

Again, thank you for putting out a great magazine. Best of health and happiness.

— E.J. CHROMCAK '50
Houston, Texas

SPIRIT INSPIRES SCHOLARSHIP

I'm writing to applaud the article in the summer 2014 edition of *Spirit* by Jeannie Ralston that explained our options for study abroad in the College of Architecture.

I appreciate the care she took to accurately reflect our decades of focus on global programs. In fact, coincident with this publication, donors Sherrye and Joe Bass '83 stepped forward to provide the student whom I mentioned in the article

with a generous scholarship. As a result, she is participating in our Castiglion Fiorentino program at the Santa Chiara Center during the spring 2015 semester.

This generosity, so characteristic of our former students, makes me proud to teach at Texas A&M University.

— DR. ELTON ABBOTT '83
Associate Dean for International Programs and Initiatives
Associate Professor of Practice
Department of Architecture
Texas A&M University

MY RESPECTS TO LT. MATOCHA

Editor's note: After hearing Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67 speak about Lt. Donald Matocha '67 at a Legacy Society event, retired U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Frank Ybarra wrote to us.

I'd like to pay my respects to Lt. Donald Matocha '67. I was in the Marines from late 1965 until early 1969. I was only 17—too young—when I started at the university. I wasn't ready to be in college, but just right to go into the Marines. I left Texas A&M after one year. As it turns out, I am fairly sure that Matocha and I were assigned to the same unit twice. The first time was in the fall of 1965 at Texas A&M, where we lived in Milner Hall with G Company. He would have been a senior while I was a

freshman; our time overlapped by only a few months. I can't speak for what he was like at Texas A&M, but many spoke highly of him. That's good enough for me.

When our paths crossed again in 1968, we were both assigned to the 3rd Marine Division in the Demilitarized Zone. I was with an infantry unit, the 4th Marines out of Camp Carroll; Matocha was a team leader with a reconnaissance battalion. They were special marines with dangerous jobs, and we respected them.

North Vietnamese Army (NVA) artillery was killing American soldiers in our division daily. Matocha's team was trying to find the enemy, which positioned spotters and infantry on a nearby hill. Each time they fired on us, we could see how they adjusted their shots by watching the explosions on the ground around us.

According to accounts, Matocha was killed in the spring of 1968, with the Tet Offensive in full swing, on Dong Ma Mountain, a tough piece of terrain to climb without cover and pockmarked with bomb craters. The NVA were fighting all around us. We were good soldiers, but men like Matocha were the best of the best. They showed us the way, and it took a lot of guts to do what they did.

Marines finally found and captured those guns later that summer of 1968. Knowing what I know of that place, I certainly wouldn't have wanted to be one of the first ones up the hill, but Matocha took that risk and paid the ultimate price. My sympathy goes to his family, friends and former classmates, and I'm glad his remains finally came home.

U.S. Marine Corps retired Staff Sgt. Frank Ybarra in Vietnam (1968)



I'm privileged to have been associated with him and men like him, even in my own small way. Men like him can never be replaced and certainly will never be forgotten, not by me.

Semper Fi, Lt. Matocha.

— RETIRED STAFF SGT. FRANK
YBARRA, USMC
Arneckeville, Texas

DUTY, HONOR, FAMILY



X.B. Cox Jr. '37 passed away on Nov. 4, 2014, at the age of 99.

I enjoy reading the Texas A&M Foundation's *Spirit* magazine. My father, a 1937 graduate and a highly decorated WWII veteran, passed away Nov. 4 at the age of 99. As someone who loved Texas A&M and was a Century Club member for many years, I thought his life accomplishments were worthy of noting in your magazine as a Texas A&M supporter who gave back to both his alma mater and his community.

His funeral was the day of the Auburn game on Saturday, Nov. 8. As we watched Texas A&M triumph, we couldn't help but wonder (with a smile) if Daddy's spirit may have caused those unusual last two Auburn fumbles. Our family hopes that *Spirit* magazine readers may find his story interesting.

— MELBA ELLEN COX WILLIAMS '77
Kerrville, Texas

Editor's note: You can read more about Cox at give.am/XBCox.

LAW SCHOOL IMPRESSES

Thanks for the article on the Texas A&M University School of Law in the fall 2014 issue of *Spirit* magazine. I recently had the opportunity to participate in a symposium sponsored by the *Texas A&M Law Review* titled "New Technology and Old Law—Rethinking National Security."

The exceptionally well-organized symposium addressed a timely subject that reflects both the dedication and professionalism of the *Texas A&M Law Review* staff and its faculty advisers. Out-of-state participants departed Fort Worth genuinely impressed with Texas A&M's hospitality and its ability to bring together leading experts on cyber matters and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones).

I trust that this symposium represented but a first step toward the school's development of a recognized expertise in national security law. Texas A&M's School of Law, in conjunction with The Bush School of Government and Public Service, is now in a position to make significant, ongoing contributions toward addressing the many legal issues impacting U.S. national security interests. As it strives to do so, the law school deserves the full support of the Texas A&M administration and Aggies worldwide.

— COL. DAVID E. GRAHAM '66
Charlottesville, Virginia

FALL 2014 SPIRIT CORRECTIONS

On page 18, the professor pictured with Courtney Merket '15 is Civil Engineering Professor Tony Cahill, not Raymond Tarpley '71.

A class year was omitted for Patricia & Edward A. Hiler in the Honor Roll. It should read Patricia '77 & Edward A. Hiler.

Professor Vrooman's middle initial was incorrect in the article about All Faiths Chapel. His full name should read Richard E. "Dik" Vrooman '52.

OnCampus

Texas A&M's Dwight Look College of Engineering will begin offering a master's degree, certificate program and undergraduate minor in a new subsea engineering program. Only a handful of universities worldwide offer a similar program.



Engineering at New Depths

Texas A&M University will enhance its reputation as an engineering education powerhouse through a new subsea engineering program in the Dwight Look College of Engineering that will offer a master's degree, certificate program and undergraduate minor.

The only other U.S. university with subsea offerings is the University of Houston, and only a handful of universities worldwide offer a program.

Subsea engineering involves the design, fabrication, installation and operation of equipment needed to produce oil and gas fields in deep, underwater locations. An emerging field which relies heavily on experience-based engineering practices, the availability of training for subsea engineers is limited.

As easier-to-access offshore oil wells are depleted, companies are increasingly drilling exploratory subsea wells. These deep-water locations can produce significantly more barrels of oil per day than conventional shale boom wells, but the challenges to extract underwater oil are greater due to the hostile environments at such depths.

"With the breadth of our engineering program, we are well-positioned to emerge as a world leader in the subsea engineering field," said Dr. M. Katherine Banks, vice chancellor and dean of engineering at Texas A&M.

Dave Lucas, a retired ExxonMobil executive with more than 35 years of industry experience, will direct the subsea engineering program.

Booking It

A new library storage facility jointly operated by The Texas A&M University System and The University of Texas System will save money and accommodate millions of volumes for shared use across Texas. As the libraries at both campuses continue to add new study, learning and consultation spaces, the storage facility will alleviate space pressure for printed materials while lowering storage costs for both systems.

The \$6.3 million Joint Library Facility, located at Texas A&M's Riverside Campus, accommodates one million volumes and can expand to hold an additional two million. More than 460,000 volumes were already housed

A new library storage facility jointly operated by The Texas A&M University System and The University of Texas System enables both schools to store print books and journals.

in the 18,000-square-foot building at the end of 2014.

"As we increasingly rely on digital technologies for access to information, this facility allows us to protect the vital legacy of print materials and provide timely access to the originals," said Texas A&M University Libraries Dean David Carlson.

The cost savings of storing a volume in the Joint Library Facility as opposed to an open library stack facility is approximately \$3.40 per volume.

Volumes at the facility are available to users from both university systems and to other academic and medical institutions in Texas at no cost.

BUILDing Tradition and Unity

Texas A&M University students motivated by the service and camaraderie that defined Aggie bonfire recently established BUILD, an organization that seeks to unite all students through selfless service by planning, organizing and constructing a large-scale service project each fall semester.

During fall 2014, BUILD converted four donated shipping containers into mobile medical units to provide accessible medical care for communities in Haiti, Honduras, Bolivia and Colombia. These Texas Aggie Medical Units—which were shipped to their destinations in late November—are equipped with a reception room, two exam rooms, a nurse's station and a procedure room furnished with medical equipment.

To accomplish such large-scale projects, approximately 25 BUILD members begin the planning process each February. At the start of the fall semester, BUILD welcomes 30 to 50 student supervisors who are trained in power tools and 20 community volunteers who wish to assist with the project as BUILD advisers.

"Ultimately, BUILD's goal is to unite campus by bringing student volunteers from any number of campus organizations together for a central cause," said Chief Executive Officer Drew Allen '16.

For more information or to view more photos of BUILD projects, visit buildtamu.com.

Presidential Finalist Named

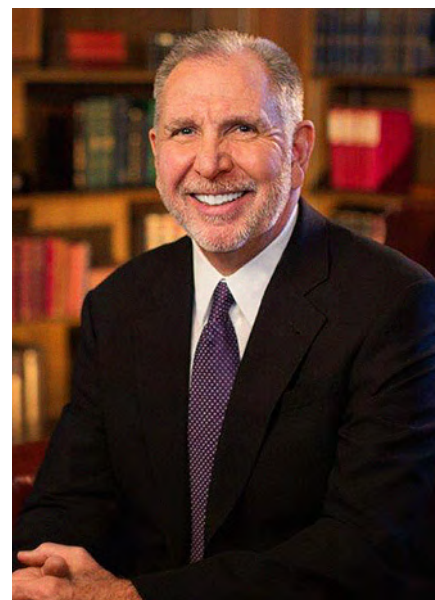
The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents named Michael K. Young the sole finalist for Texas A&M president on Feb. 3. Young has served as president of the University of Washington since July 2011.

"Given his reputation, I believe Dr. Young will instantly elevate Texas A&M's status among its peers," said Ed Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation. "After meeting him, I am reinforced that his performance will exceed our lofty expectations."

A graduate of Brigham Young University and Harvard Law School, Young also has served as president of

the University of Utah; professor of Japanese law at Columbia University; and dean of the George Washington University Law School.

The Board of Regents confirmed Young's appointment March 9, and he will begin work this spring.



The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents named Michael K. Young the sole finalist for Texas A&M president on Feb. 3. Dr. Young is expected to begin work this spring.



First Woman to Lead Corps of Cadets

For the first time in Texas A&M University's history, a woman will lead the Corps of Cadets. Alyssa Marie Michalke '16 of Schulenburg, Texas, will take command of the 2,400-plus-member unit at the conclusion of the spring semester and serve during the 2015-16 school year.

A junior double major in ocean and civil engineering, Michalke presently serves as corps sergeant major, the highest rank for any cadet who is not a senior. She is also the first woman to hold that position.

"I am deeply honored to serve as the next corps commander and will do my very best to uphold the tradition of leading my fellow cadets, while also continuing to learn," Michalke said. "The Corps of Cadets has provided me a tremendous opportunity to grow as a person and to develop leadership skills."

Michalke was selected following interviews with a board consisting of the senior leadership of the corps and members of the commandant's staff. Corps Commandant Brig. Gen. Joe Ramirez Jr. '79 and Interim President Mark Hussey gave final approval.

"As a former corps commander, I know both the honor and responsibility that comes with this position, and I applaud Alyssa for her achievement," said Texas A&M Foundation President Ed Davis '67. "Her appointment reflects what makes Texas A&M great: the ability to blend our traditional values with the realities of an ever-changing world."

Michalke is a member of the O. R. Simpson Honor Society; the Ross Volunteers; multiple campus honor societies and organizations; and Texas A&M Sports for Kids, an organization that creates opportunities for children to become involved in youth sports.

Lab Work



In a study examining the effects of government intervention in the economy, a Texas A&M University researcher and his colleagues found that citizens from Denmark enjoy the highest level of happiness.

Hear, Hear

Understanding how hearing works has long been hampered by challenges associated with seeing inside the inner ear, but a Texas A&M University researcher and his team are developing technology that is generating some of the most detailed images of the inner ear to date, offering new insight into the mechanics of hearing and hearing loss.

By employing optical coherence tomography (OCT), a technology similar to ultrasound that generates high-resolution, three-dimensional images, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering Brian Applegate and colleagues from Stanford University are mapping tissues within the cochlea,

the portion of the inner ear responsible for hearing.

The cochlea has been traditionally difficult to study due to its small size and the fact that its tissues are encapsulated by dense bone. Thus, hearing loss diagnoses are typically based on circumstantial evidence as opposed to morphological proof.

Though OCT technology has primarily been used in animal models, Applegate's team is developing a prototype device for human use. The hand-held instrument will enable a physician to pass a probe through the ear canal that shines a laser through a thin membrane located on the cochlea to image inner ear tissues. The images are produced from measurements of the inner ear's structure and small vibrations within the cochlea.

"We're trying to better understand hearing and learn more about the actual morphology of the inner ear and how it processes vibrations," said Applegate.

The Happy Factor

In a study examining the effects of government intervention in the economy, a Texas A&M University researcher and his colleagues found that government intervention—when managed correctly—leads to more happiness and satisfaction in the lives of citizens.

To reach their conclusion, professors of political science Alexander Pacek of Texas A&M, Patrick Flavin of Baylor University and Benjamin Radcliff of the University of Notre Dame studied 21 capitalist democracies from 1981 to 2007 and examined data from nearly 50,000 respondents.

In studying four measures of government policies—spending on social welfare programs, government size, welfare generosity and workplace pro-

Texas A&M Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering Brian Applegate and colleagues from Stanford University are developing a technology that is offering new insight into the mechanics of hearing.

tections—researchers found that both high- and low-income citizens find life more satisfying as the degree of government intervention in the economy increases.

The country with the highest level of satisfaction was Denmark, followed by Switzerland, Iceland, Ireland and Austria. The United States ranked No. 11. Countries ranked lower on the satisfaction scale included Great Britain, Germany, Spain, France and—in last place—Japan.

“We don’t claim to address other arguments on big government such as its effect on economic growth,” said Pacek. “Government can cause problems, but to those who say that government is always bad, here we have evidence that is simply not the case.”

Space Smorgasbord

A small, nondescript building at Texas A&M often goes unnoticed despite housing one of the most high-tech research facilities at the university—the Food Technology Facility for Electron Beam and Space Food Research.

Texas A&M’s Space Food Research facility produces approximately 60 different food products annually for use in the NASA International Space Station.



A product of a partnership between NASA and Texas A&M AgriLife, the Space Food Research facility produces thermostabilized foods for use in the NASA International Space Station. Instead of freeze-drying, scientists treat food products with heat to kill bacteria and make them suitable for consumption in space.

With the assistance of Aggie student labor, scientists at the facility produce about 60 different space food products annually for the International Space Station.

On the horizon is research and development of a variety of food products for a future mission to Mars.

Cash for Clunkers Crashes

A group of Texas A&M University economists reports that the 2009 Cash for Clunkers program actually reduced new vehicle spending during the Great Recession.

A study by economics professors Mark Hoekstra and Steven Puller of Texas A&M and Jeremy West of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology revealed that the federal stimulus program was unsuccessful because of conflicting goals.

“The first goal was to increase revenues to the auto industry by accelerating the purchase of new vehicles,” said Puller. “The second goal was to reduce the impact to the environment through more fuel-efficient vehicles.”

The researchers found that the two-month program advanced sales by as much as eight months. However, because the subsidy encouraged consumers to purchase more fuel-efficient but less expensive vehicles, the program actually reduced new vehicle spending over the entire ten-month period.

The researchers concluded that a stimulus policy subsidizing the purchase of any new vehicle would have accelerated purchases without costing the automotive industry billions of dollars in lost revenue.

Energy Evolution

With worldwide energy demand projected to rise 35 to 40 percent between now and 2040, the search is on for viable sources and solutions. One potential answer may lie in hydrogen-based energy alternatives, an option that Texas A&M University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Marcetta Darensbourg explores in her research.

Darensbourg, an expert in synthetic and mechanistic inorganic chemistry, is developing methods to perfect the technology of hydrogen-powered fuel cells.

Fuel cells provide a reliable source of heat and electricity and dramatically reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Similar to batteries, they work by electrochemically combining hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, heat and water in a process that is highly efficient and virtually emission-free. Unlike batteries, fuel cells can generate energy continuously as long as they have a fuel supply.

Darensbourg believes the best such fuel supply is hydrogen. The current catalyst used in fuel cells to convert hydrogen and oxygen into electricity is platinum, an expensive and limited resource. Her goal is to utilize Earth-abundant transition metals—such as iron, nickel and sulfur—as alternative catalysts to generate more cost-effective, readily available sources of hydrogen energy.

“We hope our work will be able to answer two things—how to make hydrogen and how to use hydrogen,” Darensbourg said. “It will be momentous for renewable energy if we can do this.”

Graduate student Randara Pulukkody ’15 helps Chemistry Professor Marcetta Darensbourg research hydrogen-based energy alternatives.



New Gifts

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 give.am/TAMFHonorRoll.

Stacey Cook and her daughter Grace celebrate a birthday with their beloved Labrador retriever Callie, who later died of kidney disease. The family is funding an endowment dedicated to kidney disease research at Texas A&M.



Callie's Legacy

To celebrate Christmas 2004 and their four-year anniversary, John Cook '05 gave his then-girlfriend (now his wife) Stacey a gift: a picture of a dog as a go-ahead for her to choose a real-life canine. A few weeks later, she chose the perfect present—Callie, a black Labrador retriever.

Callie loved fetching tennis balls, swimming and running. In addition to being active and loving, she was a loyal friend to the couple's two-year-old daughter Grace from birth.

On Feb. 22, 2014, Callie passed away following an 18-month battle with kidney disease. To cope with her passing, Stacey was compelled to contribute to the discovery of a cure for widespread chronic renal disease in dogs.

"One of the hardest things about kidney disease is that when it's diag-

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

nosed in dogs, it's already too late," Stacey said.

In an effort to help identify biomarkers for earlier diagnosis and better treatment of chronic kidney disease, the Houston couple and Stacey's parents, Janis and Bob Frank, funded the \$35,000 Callie Cook Endowment for Kidney Disease Research at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

"Creating this endowment gave me purpose," Stacey said. "I love that this gift will last forever and that it can help me teach Grace about giving."

To support this endowment, visit give.am/CallieCook.

A Gift for Galveston

To honor her late father, Theresa '90 and Robert O'Donel '90 established a \$25,000 endowed scholarship at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

They designated the Joseph B. Morreale Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Texas students ranked in the second quartile of their high school graduating classes and majoring in general academics, marine engineering technology or marine transportation at the Galveston campus.

"We feel like someone in the second quartile of their class represents who we are," said Theresa, a business analysis graduate. "We were good students, but school didn't come easily for us. We wanted to give that kind of student a chance to receive a scholarship."



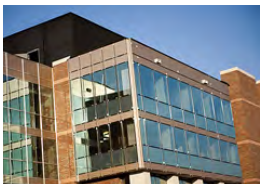
Theresa '90 and Robert O'Donel '90 established a \$25,000 endowed scholarship at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Morreale worked at Air Products Inc. for more than 30 years before founding Wesmor Cryogenic Services. Following his passing in 2011 and the 2014 sale of Wesmor to Dallas-based Trinity Industries Inc., the O'Donels used funds to create the scholarship.

"Joe would have loved the hands-on approach that Galveston offers its students," said Rob, a geography graduate. "We thought that setting up a scholarship at Galveston in his name would make him proud."

Rob is president and Theresa is vice president of League City-based Suntrac Services Inc., a consulting firm providing radiation safety services.

Final Two Corps Centers Named



Multimillion-dollar commitments from Susan and Michael Plank '83 and the Grady Ash Foundation will support construction of the final two of four planned Corps of Cadets Leadership Learning Centers at Texas A&M University.

The third center will be named in honor of Susan and Michael Plank '83 while the fourth will be named in honor of Stephen C. Ash '87, trustee of the Grady Ash Foundation.

Construction will begin this summer and will be completed by fall 2016.

Anthony G. Buzbee '90 and H. Grady Ash Jr. '58 funded the first two learning centers, which opened in 2012 and August 2014, respectively. Both facilities are approximately 17,000 square

Fischers Fund Oil Recovery Center

To enhance research efforts concerning the use of carbon dioxide as an enhanced oil recovery agent, SuSu and Mark Fischer '72 committed \$1.75 million to establish the Chaparral-Fischer CO₂ Enhanced Oil Recovery Center in the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering.

Mark Fischer is chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Chaparral Energy, the third-largest U.S. operator for CO₂ enhanced oil recovery based on the number of active projects. The Chaparral-Fischer center will be used to study and improve the use of carbon dioxide as an enhanced oil recovery agent.

The donation will also support several petroleum engineering graduate students tasked with investigating oil recovery mechanisms. The partnership will enhance students' educational experiences by providing opportunities to work on real-world engineering challenges.

"We are honored to help cultivate the next generation of industry leaders with support of this lab," said Fischer. "By providing tools and resources such as these, we hope to fuel innovation for decades to come."

The Fischers have been longtime supporters of academics and athletics at Texas A&M and recently contributed \$12 million toward construction of the new Engineering Education Complex in support of the 25 by 25 Initiative.

SuSu and Mark Fischer '72 established a new oil recovery center at Texas A&M.



feet and connect existing, renovated residence halls.

Michael Plank is president and CEO of Houston-based Plank Companies Inc., a construction machinery manufacturing facility. A former cadet, Plank graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. Stephen Ash, a finance graduate, is managing senior vice president of the real estate firm Transwestern Commercial Services.

Aggies for Fresh Food

Agricultural economics graduates Dan'l Mackey Almy '94 and Andrew Almy '94 are advancing the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' five grand challenges through a newly created excellence fund, Aggies for Fresh.

The couple established the fund in 2013 with a \$35,000 gift and com-

mitted to creating an additional \$35,000 endowment in 2015.

The multifaceted Aggies for Fresh excellence fund will support faculty research; foster student connections with the fresh produce industry; and bolster student organizations whose missions relate to advancing agriculture. "We need more of the leadership and passion of Aggies in the industry," Dan'l said. "This fund will raise awareness about available careers and provide networking opportunities."

Dan'l is president and CEO of Irving-based marketing firm DMA Solutions Inc., while Andrew is an account executive at Fidelity Investments.

Visit www.aggiesforfresh.com to learn more. To contribute to the Aggies for Fresh excellence fund, visit give.am/AggiesForFresh.

A Triumph Worth Telling

THE TEXAS A&M FAMILY HELPED THIS AGGIE THROUGH A DIFFICULT JOURNEY.

My story always brings tears to my eyes, but if it helps someone continue to move forward during difficult times, it's worth telling.

I was born in Compton, California, as the youngest of six kids. My parents didn't have the opportunity to attend college and worked long hours for minimum wages. At the end of 12-hour days, they always came home, cooked dinner and ensured our homework was neat and complete. They encouraged us to work hard for our grades and made it clear that if we wanted to succeed in life, we must take school seriously and attend college. They truly wanted us to have opportunities that they missed.

Early Hardships

Unfortunately, when I was 11, my father became ill and retired early. He moved us to Colima, Mexico, forcing me to leave the life I knew as an American seventh grader. We moved to a small town named Rincon de Lopez that didn't have a middle or high school. I remember my mom telling me not to worry, because she planned to drive me to the next town so I could continue middle school. We talked to the principle at that school, who informed us that I was ineligible for its program—news that brought my education to a complete stop.

Three years later, my oldest brother Jose relocated to California and invited me to live with him so I could

again enroll in school and have a chance at attaining a college education. Before I could move back to the United States, however, Jose was killed at a tire shop after a man stormed in and shot all of the employees, the owner and customers. This was one of the most difficult times in my life. Understandably, my parents no longer wanted me to move away.

Time passed and when I turned 18, the opportunity arose to visit my sister Claudia in California, where I passed the high school equivalency exam. I knew that the GED could never replace the five years of education that I missed, but at least I had a diploma to fall back on if I ever applied to college.

At 24, I was continuing to care for my father as his illness became worse. My goal in life was to attend college, but I felt that dream slipping away. I decided to take a risk. I moved to Texas, worked in retail and applied to Lone Star Community College in Montgomery. I wasn't ready for a big university and believed I wouldn't be accepted because of the gap in my education. My only option was to get high grades in basic classes at a community college.



Elizabeth Colmenares '14 overcame educational, financial and personal hardships to achieve her dream of graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in geology.

The Tide Shifts

During my time at Lone Star Community College, I met my husband Alberto and discovered my passion for geology. Along with basic courses for a business degree, I chose geology for my science credit and fell in love with the subject. I knew then that I wanted to pursue this discipline at a larger university.

In March 2012, I attended Aggie -land Saturday, where I was introduced

ily, my sister offered to be his primary caregiver so I could continue my Texas A&M education. I felt better about my decision after talking with my geology department adviser, Suzanne Rosser, who told me that she truly believed I could manage being a full-time student and secondary caregiver for my husband. She understood my journey and didn't want me to quit since I was already a senior.



to Aggie traditions and spirit. I saw parents with their children, proudly dressed in maroon, showing off their Aggie rings. I hadn't yet applied to the university, but everyone treated me with respect.

I applied as soon as I got home, reminding myself that the probability of being accepted was low. Despite my 3.97 GPA, I still worried about the gap in my education. A month later, I received an acceptance letter from Texas A&M and moved to College Station to pursue my dream.

Another Obstacle

Everything was going well until October 2013 when Alberto was diagnosed with stage four lymphoma, and I learned he would need a 24-hour caregiver. I had two choices: to withdraw from my classes or become both a caregiver and student. After talking to my fam-

Alberto's health continued to worsen, but with support from my family, friends, Suzanne and my professors, I was able to get through the fall semester. Dr. Rick Giardino, head of the geology department, encouraged me to return for the spring semester, and I realized that many people were hoping to see me graduate.

After five chemo treatments, Alberto was ready for his bone marrow transplant. Because of his illness, we faced extreme medical expenses. To make matters worse, my car broke down and we couldn't pay our rent. At one point I had \$20 in my bank account. I knew I couldn't afford tuition for my last semester, and I was exhausted. I discussed the situation with Suzanne, who surprised me with news that I had been awarded a scholarship. I immediately broke down in tears. For me, this was a sign from God to soldier on.

Shortly thereafter, I received more encouragement. Touched by my story and high GPA, oceanography Professor Mary Jo Richardson understood that I needed additional support, so she introduced me to Carl Jaedicke '73, vice president for principal gifts at the Texas A&M Foundation. Carl shared my story with The Association of Former Students, and I was granted the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation Scholarship. Later, I was also awarded the Texas A&M Foundation's Robert R. and Josephine F. Berg Endowed Scholarship as well as a scholarship and Outstanding Student Award from the Houston Geological Society.

I was blessed to graduate from Texas A&M on my scheduled date in August 2014. I walked the stage and received my bachelor of science degree in geology with Summa Cum Laude honors. I now work in Houston at URS Corp., an environmental consulting company, where I'm involved in environmental monitoring and remediation. I'm also happy to say that Alberto's cancer is now in remission.

This would have been impossible without the support of so many people at Texas A&M. I no longer see Texas A&M as just a university that I chose for a geology degree, but as a family that helped during my difficult journey. Every person I met along the way will always have a special place in my heart, and I will forever wear my Aggie ring and maroon with pride.

I would need a lifetime to explain how grateful I am to be an Aggie who never stopped fighting to accomplish my dream. 🌟

— BY ELIZABETH COLMENARES '14

To learn more about supporting Aggie scholarships, contact:

Marcy Ullmann '86

Manager of Scholarship Programs

Texas A&M Foundation

(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-6383

mullmann@txamfoundation.com

Viewpoint



Faces of FOW

One of the most memorable milestones during Freshmen Orientation Week (FOW) takes place at local barbershops—in this case, Southgate Barbers—where “fish” members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets receive military regulation haircuts from skilled barbers like Gene Wren (left) and Robert Kruse (right). For first-semester freshmen like Jonathan Chen '18 (left), Alexander Kent '18 (right) and Benjamin Pico '18 (below) from Squadron 4 'Aces', this equates to a maximum of one-fourth inch of hair on top of the head and five-finger whitewalls.



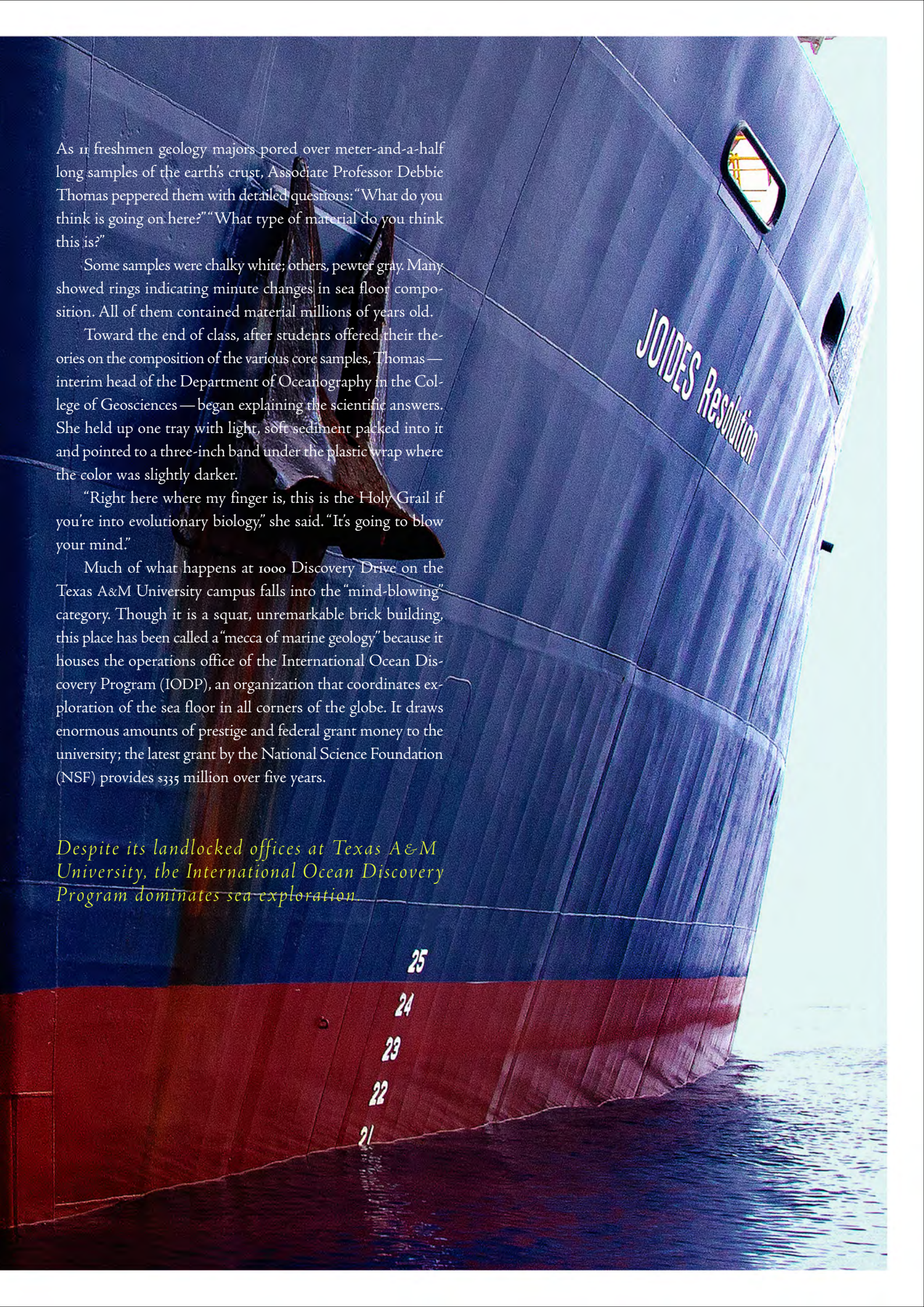


TEXAS A&M'S GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

*Editor's Note: This is the fourth in
a series of features on Texas A&M
University's global footprint.*

AGGIES SAIL THE DEEP BLUE SEA

The *JOIDES Resolution* is a 471-foot-long ship that functions as the International Ocean Discovery Program's workhorse. The ship sails on four two-month expeditions per year.



As 11 freshmen geology majors pored over meter-and-a-half long samples of the earth's crust, Associate Professor Debbie Thomas peppered them with detailed questions: "What do you think is going on here?" "What type of material do you think this is?"

Some samples were chalky white; others, pewter gray. Many showed rings indicating minute changes in sea floor composition. All of them contained material millions of years old.

Toward the end of class, after students offered their theories on the composition of the various core samples, Thomas — interim head of the Department of Oceanography in the College of Geosciences — began explaining the scientific answers. She held up one tray with light, soft sediment packed into it and pointed to a three-inch band under the plastic wrap where the color was slightly darker.

"Right here where my finger is, this is the Holy Grail if you're into evolutionary biology," she said. "It's going to blow your mind."

Much of what happens at 1000 Discovery Drive on the Texas A&M University campus falls into the "mind-blowing" category. Though it is a squat, unremarkable brick building, this place has been called a "mecca of marine geology" because it houses the operations office of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP), an organization that coordinates exploration of the sea floor in all corners of the globe. It draws enormous amounts of prestige and federal grant money to the university; the latest grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) provides \$335 million over five years.

Despite its landlocked offices at Texas A&M University, the International Ocean Discovery Program dominates sea exploration.



Clockwise from top: "The JOIDES Resolution is a research drillship that carries 25 to 30 scientists from 28 countries on four expeditions annually. ● Roughnecks procure sediment and rock samples from the ocean floor using the ship's drilling platform (top right) and derrick (right). ● Associate Professor Debbie Thomas and IODP director Brad Clement study one of the approximately 110 kilometers of core samples that are stored in the repository on campus. Texas A&M houses one of only three such repositories in the world.



"The program is arguably the largest and most international collaboration in any science field in the world—even compared to the space station," said IODP Director Brad Clement, pointing out that thousands of scientists from around the world have been involved in research since the project began in 1968. Scientists have learned much of what they know about plate tectonics and about how the climate of Earth has varied over millions of years by studying core samples drilled by the *JOIDES Resolution*, the 471-foot-long ship that functions as the IODP workhorse. The program is responsible for "some of the most transformative science of the last century," said Thomas, who participated in two sea expeditions and authored a proposal that gained approval for a future cruise. For instance, researchers on the *Resolution* discovered the largest volcano on the planet—the TAMU Massif—and tiny microbes capable of living at depths once thought to be inhospitable to sea life.

From its College Station offices, where 122 technicians and staff work, IODP coordinates research and manages logistics for *Resolution* expeditions—acting something like mission control at NASA. The ship sails on four two-month expeditions per year, drilling up to two kilometers beneath the ocean floor and covering waters from the North Sea to the South Pacific. Each cruise carries 25 to 30 scientists from the 28 IODP member countries, and at least eight scientists are from the U.S. These scientists win berths through a highly competitive process based on their expertise and research they hope to contribute to the overall cruise goals. Also aboard are 25 technicians from the IODP offices—many of them Aggies—who facilitate scientific work and operate \$5 million worth of lab equipment.

Back at home base, the IODP offices provide another function that directly benefits Texas A&M students and the general public. One-third of the core samples collected by the *Resolution*—or approximately 110 kilometers of material—are housed in a repository in the campus offices. As one of only three repositories in the world (the others are in Germany and Japan), geologists and other scientists visit frequently for their research and for pre-expedition planning. The three graduate research assistants and the 30 student workers employed at IODP—in departments ranging from human resources to industrial engineering—get valuable exposure to international operations. "Those working on the loading dock, for instance, learn what it takes to ship supplies around the world and the logistics of preparing an expedition," said Clement. "The university is always looking at how to prepare students for the global environment; we do it all here in one-stop shopping."

When Brittany Martinez '15 applied for an IODP student worker position five years ago, she had no knowledge of the program that would later change the direction of her

college education. "I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian," she said, "but interacting with the international science community really opened my eyes to geology and made me fall in love with it. Whether I'm searching a core for a specific feature or helping a scientist, I'm always learning something new." Now Martinez hopes to pursue postgraduate work in geology and dreams of going aboard the *Resolution* herself one day. "It's incredible to see things here that have or could change textbooks forever," she said.

Landlocked College Station isn't the natural place to situate a premiere international oceanography effort, but strangely enough, location did help the university land the IODP contract in 1984. Before then, the drilling program was operated by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California at San Diego. Texas A&M's close ties to the oil drilling industry in Houston—and, more specifically, access to an exploration drilling vessel—helped convince the NSF to accept the bid from the non-seaside site. The university leases the *Resolution*, which has been retrofitted for science exploration rather than oil exploration, from Overseas Drilling Ltd., the same company that provides the roughnecks who do the actual deep-water drilling.

The impact of the program's move to College Station was huge, since universities are rated by the value of federal grant money brought in for research. The IODP is the largest externally funded program in The Texas A&M University System, and the award catapulted the institution into the Tier One research university distinction, designated for universities that bring in more than \$100 million per year in grant money. In fall 2014, Texas A&M won another five-year contract, with the possibility of extending for five more—beating out other prestigious bidders.

—Dr. Brad Clement

DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE
SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL
OCEAN DISCOVERY PROGRAM

"Texas A&M took the program from Scripps and ran with it," said Linda Mays McCaul '87, who was the first Aggie graduate student to join the program. Eager to attend Texas A&M as a graduate student in oceanography and geology, she aspired to work for what was then called the Ocean Drilling Program. She was successful in convincing the program director at the time, Dr. Phil Rabinowitz, to include graduate students. She joined Leg 104 to the Norwegian Sea as the first Texas A&M graduate student aboard the *Resolution*. She also sailed on Leg 112 to Peru and based her master's degree thesis on research conducted during her time at sea. "It was such an honor to be the first graduate

student on the *Resolution* and see numerous other students participate in the same amazing experience,” she said. “Having the opportunity to convince the directors that graduate students have a role in an international scientific program is the most remarkable accomplishment.”

Realizing the extraordinary educational value of the expeditions, the IODP tries to staff at least one-third of the scientific positions on each voyage with graduate students from member countries. “We’re preparing the next generation of global scientists,” said Clement.

The first of Clement’s four drilling expeditions—when he was a graduate student at Columbia University—“completely changed my life and the way I do science,” he said.

“The International Ocean Discovery Program is responsible for some of the most transformative science of the last century.”

—Dr. Debbie Thomas

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
INTERIM HEAD, DEPARTMENT
OF OCEANOGRAPHY, COLLEGE
OF GEOSCIENCES

He was able to see the power of scientific minds come together in real time. “So often scientists are in a lab, sending out measurements to another scientist in another lab and then waiting for the response. But everyday on-board, you had a bunch of scientists working together on a common problem in the same place. In this multicultural environment, people

would be arguing about how to interpret different data. There was incredible urgency and excitement,” he said.

Because the ship is expensive to operate, no time is squandered. This means scientists and technicians work 12-hour days, seven days a week for eight weeks straight, without going to port. “By the end of the cruise you might be eating peanut butter sandwiches,” remembered McCaul, “and your hair would be green (from the chlorine in the desalinated water), but you didn’t blink an eye. You were learning, and you cannot put a price tag on that kind of hands-on experience.”

Stella Woodard ’11 has equally powerful memories of her experience on the *Resolution*. In 2009, then a graduate student in geological oceanography, she worked as a sedimentologist. Her job was to describe a core’s properties—color, composition and grain size—immediately after it surfaced from the drilling rig (once exposed to air, the sample starts to change). “What was really amazing was that these core samples remained below the sea floor for millions of years,” she said, “and I was the first person to see them.”

Three of the expeditions planned for 2015 will focus on the initiation and evolution of the monsoon climate system. “Monsoons supply fresh water to approximately one-third of the Earth’s population, so it’s critical that we understand how they have varied over time,” Clement said. The fourth expedition of the year will attempt to recover rock from the lowest portion of the Earth’s crust.

This room contains the past 160 million years of the history of the planet,” Clement announced as he opened the door to the 12,000-square-foot repository at the IODP headquarters. Inside the frigid space (cold slows the decaying process) are racks stacked floor to ceiling with carefully catalogued core samples. Soon after being extracted from the ocean floor, each cylindrical core is split in half lengthwise. Only half is used for research. The other half is archived and left untouched.

Because the repository boosts the university’s international reputation, Clement is working to ensure that it remains at Texas A&M—something that is not guaranteed in today’s challenging funding environment. To do this, he is looking for private funding to ensure that these valuable samples and equipment remain accessible to Aggie students and researchers for years to come. “This certainly could be an incredible naming opportunity for someone,” he said.

The repository brings not only international scientists to College Station, but also top students like Woodard, who chose to get her Ph.D. from Texas A&M after rejecting an offer from Yale.

It also attracts touring students and educators from all over the state and Aggies from across campus—such as Debbie Thomas’ freshmen geology majors, who were anxious to learn the significance of the core she was holding.

“So what if I told you that this colored area here,” she said, tapping on the darker band of the sample, “was 66 million years old.” She paused and scanned the eager faces. “What happened 66 million years ago?”

“The dinosaurs went extinct,” answered a girl in Converse sneakers and a gray hoodie. Thomas nodded her head vigorously. “This sample taken from the Northern Pacific is darker here because a meteor hit the Yucatan Peninsula, which sent debris and sulfuric acid into the sky, consequently blocking out the sun and causing a nearly complete collapse of photosynthesis.”

As the students left the lab, Corey Barker ’18 was still in awe. “After studying all this in a classroom, to actually see the real material from all these millions of years,” he said, shaking his head. “It’s like learning your letters and then finally being able to read words.” 🐙

—BY JEANNIE RALSTON

To support the International Ocean Discovery Program in the College of Geosciences, contact:

Cara Milligan ’08

Senior Director of Development

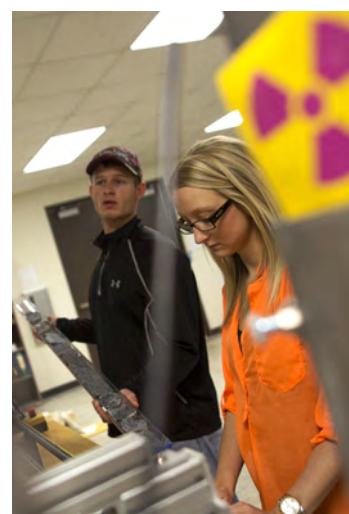
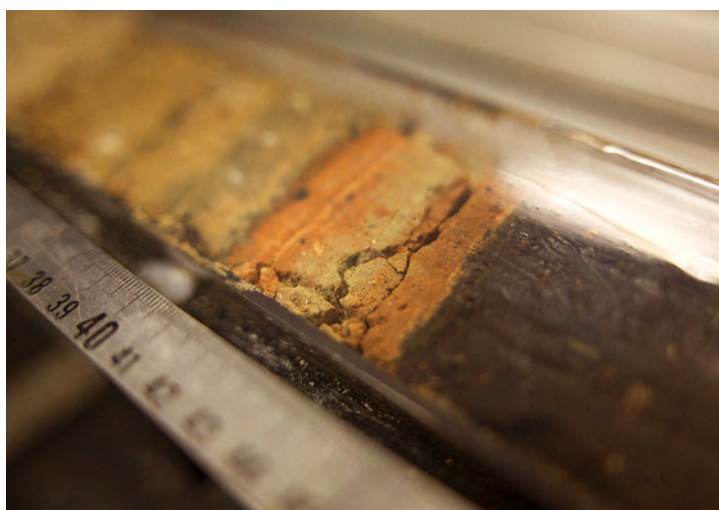
Texas A&M Foundation

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cmilligan@txamfoundation.com



Clockwise from top: IODP student workers Brian Kelly '15 (top left) and Michael Paine '15 (top right) use an XRF core scanner—an instrument designed to measure core section halves or slabs with flat surfaces. ● The section core halves are then reviewed by Shawn Miller '15 (bottom left) and Amanda Kleiber '14 (bottom right). ● Researchers are able to determine how the climate of Earth has varied over millions of years by studying the sediment layers in the samples. ● Scientists mark specific samples with colored stickers for future research.





DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR JOE FEAGIN HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF
BY CRITICALLY STUDYING ISSUES OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND GENDER.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR JOE FEAGIN'S award-winning research undoubtedly pushes parameters, but a simple and fundamental motivation lies behind his social science studies—real liberty and justice for all. Driven by that ideal, he has developed concepts of systemic racism and sexism that influence the work of social scientists and policymakers worldwide, and one would be hard-pressed to write about race without referencing his theories and field research.

"The people who are willing to read my research and take it seriously are often persuaded by it," Feagin said. "The difficulty is that most whites don't want to read social science research

that is critical of established institutions, especially of their racist dimensions. I learned a long time ago that when you develop critical ideas about the basic structures of society, you have to back them up empirically and substantially."

For half a century, Feagin has conducted research on racial and gender issues facing the United States, leading to groundbreaking contributions in the fields of racial-ethnic relations and sex and gender inequality. There is no doubt that he's a legend already made, with more in the making. And thankfully for the field of sociology, Dr. Joe Feagin—at 76 years old—still feels young.

FACULTY IMPACT

SOCIOLOGY



Savannah

“What every good teacher will tell you is that the students keep you alive in many ways,” Feagin said. “They keep you thinking critically, and their questions help you develop better answers.”

“I’ve got ‘grandchildren’ students now, and it’s great to see them thrive and feel personally validated by their success. You look at my resume, and it sounds a little odd, but I like teaching more than research.”

Feagin’s preference for teaching over research isn’t reflected in his CV, which could double for a short story. He has published 66 scholarly books (one, *Ghetto Revolts*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1973) and more than 200 research articles and monographs.

But retirement is a thought for the distant future. “I’ll be teaching until they have to carry me out in a box,” he joked.

And with all of the accolades he’s received, particularly in the last three years, there is no need for a departure. Feagin received four career achievement awards in 2012-2013: The Arthur Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Association for Affirmative Action, given to scholars and prominent activists for civil rights; The Soka Gakkai International-USA Social Justice Award; The American Sociological Association’s Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities’ Founders Award for Scholarship and Service; and the W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, the highest award given by the American Sociological Association.

It was only fitting that he also be one of seven professors given the title of University Distinguished Professor in 2014, one of the most esteemed accolades bestowed upon Texas A&M University faculty.

LEGENDARY MENTOR AND ADVISER

Feagin came to Texas A&M in 2004 as the Ella C. McFadden Professor in Liberal Arts. He was recruited from the University of Florida to help develop Texas A&M’s graduate program in sociology, which includes about 100 students. Working with undergraduate and Ph.D. students is Feagin’s passion, and he has mentored more than 30 Texas A&M doc-

toral students and two dozen Ph.D. students and junior faculty at other institutions during the last 10 years on their research projects and dissertations. In addition, he chairs roughly 16 doctoral research committees per semester, teaches graduate seminars and is one of the anchors in the Department of Sociology’s largest specialty area—race, class and gender.

“Dr. Feagin works with more students than anyone I know, and he gives them his full commitment,” said Wendy Moore, associate professor of sociology and the department’s graduate adviser. “He has respect for young scholars in a way that many professors of his standing do not, and he is always interested in working with students to pursue new and innovative research.”

His office hours are an open door policy—no student is turned away. His teaching style is empowering because he

under Feagin’s tutelage. “Instead of dictating, Joe allows his classes to center around discussion and encourages students to learn by engaging with one another. This ‘hands-off’ approach to teaching and mentorship showed me that he believes his students are capable of thinking for themselves.”

ASKING THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Feagin grew up in Houston in the 1940s and 1950s, when Jim Crow segregation was the oppressive norm.

“I was one of the very few white youths that I knew who started thinking critically about why life was like that, but none of the white adults around me encouraged this thinking, and none of my college professors would touch segregation critically,” Feagin said.

After graduating from Baylor University in 1960 with a joint major in history and philosophy, he began taking his



PROFESSOR JOE FEAGIN ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO LEARN BY ENGAGING WITH ONE ANOTHER THROUGH OPEN DISCUSSION.

encourages class discussion and the development and application of critical thinking skills. And his classes—presented as a series of social science questions students should consider rather than as a series of statements they must memorize—provide fodder for critical thinking and self-reflection.

“Rather than viewing himself as a teacher, Joe sees himself as a facilitator,” said Todd Couch ’14, a doctoral student in sociology who graduated last August

first sociology courses at Harvard University, earning a B.D. in social ethics in 1962 and a Ph.D. in sociology in 1966. From 1974 to 1975, he served as the scholar in residence for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, which invigorated him in the study of racism and sexism as fundamental social forces, and gave him a chance to study the public policy and legal sides of racial and gender issues with important civil rights leaders and government policymakers.

Feagin's research interests revolve around the sociology of racism, classism and sexism issues; racial and ethnic studies; gender relations; and the urban political economy—the study of how class structures shape the development of cities.

One seminal contribution he's made to the field of sociology is a deep analysis of systemic racism, in which he researches how and where the long history of slavery and Jim Crow segregation—about 85 percent of U.S. history—left behind highly unjust structural inequalities persisting into the 21st century (e.g. median white family wealth is at least eight times that of median black family wealth) that substantially account for the lack of a truly free, just and democratic society.

He is also particularly well-known for his white racial frame concept, which details and explains a long-dominant white worldview that rationalizes this socioeconomic system of unjust enrichment for whites and unjust impoverishment for African-Americans and other Americans of color. He demonstrates historically and empirically how this racial frame developed to legitimate inequality and then evolved to become a central and lasting part of the racial status quo.

"If you start looking deeply into the way a society operates, it often operates in ways that are different from the public rhetoric and mythology," Feagin said. "The United States has its own hidden realities, such as systemic racism, that we have never really confronted and eradicated."

Leading by example, his empirical and critical approach inspires many students to ask challenging research questions of their own.

"Joe pushed me to be inquisitive, critical and aware of the value in my voice and perspective, which developed my ability to ask pointed questions concerning structural inequality," said Louwanda Evans '12, a former student of Feagin's who is now an assistant professor of sociology at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. "He encouraged me to consider the ways that scholar-

ship and teaching can influence and promote change within existing systems."

Other students, like Rachel Feinstein '14, who graduated with a Ph.D. in sociology last May, attest that the value Feagin places on using critical theoretical perspectives tremendously impacts student research. His critical approach has inspired countless dissertations, including Feinstein's research on sexual violence perpetrated against enslaved black women by white men during slavery in the U.S. It also moved Evans to research the racialized experiences of African American pilots and flight attendants working in the commercial aviation industry and led Michael Regan '14 to question and research the underrepresentation of black head football coaches in NCAA Division I football.

"I think the most important thing Dr. Feagin has done is to teach young

sociology students that the issue of racial inequality is not a minor area in the broader study of social organization," Moore said. "Racial inequality is fundamental to social organization, and it is present in all forms of social interaction and characterizes all social institutions. As a result, all students of sociology should have a comprehensive understanding of race and racial inequality to inform their work." ❧

— BY DUNAE CRENWELGE '15

To learn how you can support faculty research in the College of Liberal Arts, contact:

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At the Forefront of Their Fields

Feagin joined six other Texas A&M faculty members selected as University Distinguished Professors in 2014. These awardees joined a select group of 77 active faculty members and 40 former faculty members who hold the prestigious title. This designation denotes a faculty member who is preeminent in his or her field; has made at least one seminal contribution to the discipline; and whose work is widely recognized to have changed the direction of scholarship in the field.

"Distinguished professors are known for being influential in their discipline, and their accomplishments are exemplified by outstanding teaching, mentoring, discovery and service," said Jane Sell, department head of sociology, who nominated Feagin for the honor. "Dr. Feagin has won an amazing number of awards that are indicators of others' esteem and recognition of his impact."

University Distinguished Professors receive \$25,000 over five years. These funds are allocated from discretionary funds the Texas A&M Foundation provides annually to Texas A&M. For the 2014–2015 fiscal year, the Texas A&M Foundation provided \$175,000 to support new University Distinguished Professors. Feagin will use his award to support his own research and that of his doctoral students. To learn more about the other 2014 recipients, visit give.am/2014DistinguishedProfessors.

The score was tied with three seconds remaining. The pounding cadence of the basketball's bounce and the slaps of running feet echoed across the packed gymnasium. As No. 12 drove hard along the baseline, a wall of opposing players stopped his dribble. He performed a quick shot fake and then passed the ball to a teammate who effortlessly landed it in the basket to win the game. It worked just like it had in practice.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE TEXAS A&M COACHING ACADEMY

GOACH





From left: John Thornton '75, director of the Texas A&M University Coaching Academy; former Texas A&M defensive tackle Kirby Ennis '13; and Steve Morris, a founding donor of the Coaching Academy.

Although athletes ultimately make the plays that decide a game, an effective coach puts a team in a position to win. Better still, a coach who is engaged in his players' development can put those individuals in a position to succeed in life. Educating coaches to both win and motivate is the guiding premise of the Texas A&M University Coaching Academy, part of the College of Education and Human Development.

Established in 2013, the goal of the Coaching Academy is to prepare and support 21st century coaches at the public school, university and practitioner levels. (Practitioners include volunteer youth, adult coaches and those who coach at private schools.) The academy provides support for Texas coaches at every level to facilitate their success.

"Whether a full-time coach, a classroom teacher with coaching responsibilities or a parent working with their child's team, all coaches need support so that they can do the best job possible for their student athletes," said John Thornton '75, academy director and a second-generation coach. "The Coaching Academy's resources will help them become more effective coaches."

Off the Court, Field and Track

Thornton knows from experience that the path from accomplished student athlete to successful adult coach is well-traveled. A dual-sport athlete in high school, Thornton played basketball and football at Holmes High School in San Antonio before focusing on basketball. He went on to play forward at San Antonio Junior College, transferred to Texas A&M and later led the Aggies to a South-west Conference Basketball Championship in 1975. These milestones paved the way for Thornton's career in coaching and later as an athletic administrator.

Two people inspired Thornton's career: his father, Bill Thornton '50, was an important role model; and his high school basketball coach, Paul Taylor, greatly influenced his life.

"Coach Taylor encouraged me to dream big and work hard," Thornton said. "He was my coach, but also an inspiring adviser and mentor." It was Taylor's example that spurred Thornton to consider how he might better support coaches at all levels.

"Effective coaches make a tremendous impact on the lives of their players that extends beyond the court, field or track," said Thornton. "While the coaching discipline enhances the skills and strategies of a particular sport, the lessons learned through competitive athletics develop character, work ethic and personal identity. The relationship forged between players and their coaches is an integral part of that education."

Former Texas A&M defensive tackle Kirby Ennis '13 learned this powerful bond at an early age.

"When I was 11 years old, my football coach guided me to become the man I am today," said Ennis. "He helped me expand my understanding of the game, learn plays and develop discipline. He also demonstrated compassion and tough love when I needed it. He was like a father to me, and the reason that I want to become a coach."

When a knee injury during his senior year ended Ennis' dream to play professional football, he enrolled in graduate school at Texas A&M to focus on the transition to coaching. "I took coaching classes and met with Coach Thornton to develop strategies for entering the profession," said Ennis. He received his master's degree in health education in December 2014 and plans to apply his experience, education and passion to teaching and coaching.

"The Coaching Academy is a great resource for students who want to become coaches," said Ennis. "Coach Thornton's reputation and networking skills in the profession help students define opportunities. The academy will elevate Texas A&M not only as a place where student athletes can compete, but also where they can prepare to transition from player to coach."

Career Path for Future Coaches

While the Coaching Academy creates opportunities for Texas A&M students, it also supports the interests of high school students exploring the possibility of a coaching career.

The academy has developed partnerships and continues to make inroads with school districts and certifying agencies to help students prepare for, find and get jobs in coaching. Reciprocal arrangements



in which the academy hosts high school students on the Texas A&M campus and offers student leadership programs related to coaching and teaching on high school campuses are already underway.

“Many of our students want to become teachers and coaches,” said Kevin Ozee ’94, director of athletics for Arlington Independent School District. “Most teacher/coaches receive classroom and experiential instruction for the teaching aspect, but they may only have player experience to draw from for coaching. It’s beneficial for them to learn early on about coaching in the same way they prepare to become teachers. The Coaching Academy is working toward making this possible.”

The academy is also developing seminars to support parent coaches who often shape a child’s lifetime view of exercise, sports and competitive athletics.



“We hope to elevate the technical and interpersonal skills of coaches at every level,” said Thornton. “We provide effective player support to transition players into coaches, and to help good coaches become better coaches—at whatever level they choose to coach at.”

A Vision for the Academy

Many Aggies who share Thornton’s vision for the academy give generously to support both operating funds and endowments.

“I am concerned about our student athletes who want to remain

it. Coaches make a powerful impact on athletes and on their communities. With education and support, these future coaches can be intentional in planning their post-college careers.”

The Coaching Academy has captured the attention of other former students and friends who see value in its mission. Five donors contributed a total of \$200,000 to provide operating funds for the first two years of the program. Further donations could help supplement its \$150,000 annual budget and create an endowment to sustain long-term growth.

“The Coaching Academy expands opportunities for our students by providing training, hands-on experience and continuing education activities for coaches in our community,” Thornton said. “I look at young men like Kirby Ennis, and all that he has to offer young people, and I am excited about the role the academy is playing to help our student athletes transition from players to coaches. From my perspective, this is a win for everyone.”

— BY DIANE OSWALD
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND
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To give online to the Coaching Academy, visit give.am/CoachingAcademy.



Although athletes ultimately make the plays that decide a game, an effective coach puts a team in a position to win. Better still, a coach who is engaged in his players’ development can put those individuals in a position to succeed in life.



engaged in sports after graduating but whose choices are limited because they won’t be pursuing a professional athletics career,” said Steve Morris, a member of the 12th Man Foundation Board of Trustees and a founding donor of the Coaching Academy. “I first heard John speak about the Coaching Academy about a year ago when he came to talk to the 12th Man Foundation Board. I knew John’s reputation as a basketball player, a coach and as an athletic administrator, and I immediately understood his vision. I decided that I wanted to be part of

John Thornton ’75, director of the Texas A&M Coaching Academy, believes that building effective coaches starts in the classroom.

WHILE MOST STUDENTS are studying for exams, attending a campus event or just hanging out with friends, Madisen Stites '15 may be planning her next major gift to Texas A&M University.

Every year, she enjoys the privilege of donating money to a charity of her choice through a charitable trust established by her grandparents, which allows her to decide how to use the funds.

Stites donated to breast cancer research in the past, but this year she gave an endowed scholarship to juniors within her industrial distribution major.

"I wanted to see the direct impact of my donation a little more, so I decided to help out those closest to home—not just those in Texas or at Texas A&M, but the students I'm with every day in my department," said Stites.

Stites is in her second year as an officer for the Professional Association for Industrial Distribution (PAID) at Texas A&M, a student organization that gives members the opportunity to network with industry contacts. In this role, she has witnessed fellow officers attempt to juggle leadership positions, classes, multiple organizations and work.

"I watched my friends put everything into being involved with the group while simultaneously holding a job and working to keep their GPAs strong to maintain scholarships," said Stites. "I wanted to create a scholarship to help people with that kind of work ethic."

Stites is fortunate to attend college without the burden of paying her own



tuition, applying for multiple scholarships and loans, or worrying about how to repay those loans after graduation. To acknowledge this, she gives back to students who are serving the university.

Easing the Burden

Two students receive \$2,250 each from the Madisen E. Stites '15 Endowed Scholarship, a two-year scholarship for full-

time junior industrial distribution majors who demonstrate leadership and are in good academic standing.

One recipient is Andrew Salada '16, from Clarkston, Michigan. For Salada, paying out-of-state tuition was concerning because the financial burden is almost triple the cost for in-state students. "I could not afford to come to a school like Texas A&M, but the scholarships I

• An Industrious • Distribution



have received, including this generous gift from Madisen, enable me to attend without being burdened by tuition,” he said.

During his freshman year, Salada served on the fundraising committee for the student organization, Freshmen Leaders in Christ (FLiC). He returned to FLiC his sophomore year to serve as a leader of its Kids’ Committee. In addition, Salada spent the last two years as a member of PAID and participates in Pioneers, a ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Madisen Stites ’15 (left) funded a scholarship endowment for industrial distribution majors through a charitable trust established by her grandparents. Fellow classmates Shelby Edmiston ’16 and Andrew Salada ’16 (below) are current beneficiaries of her generosity.



An Encouraging Endowment

A second scholar spends 20 hours a week working at the Talent Incubator, a program that offers top industrial distribution students the opportunity to work on corporate research projects.

Each semester, Shelby Edmiston ’16 must find a way to pay for college. “I have a job, but it doesn’t cover my living costs plus tuition,” she said. “Scholarships really ease my financial burden, which allows me to focus on academics while making time for extracurricular activities.”

Aside from work, Edmiston serves on the Breakaway Ministries support team and is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

“This scholarship motivates me to perform better in class and to be a better person,” she said.

As the original gift generates interest, Stites’ scholarship endowment will continue to support students forever.

“I’m really happy I went forward with the scholarship,” Stites said. “Just because you are a student doesn’t mean you have to wait to give.”

— BY FELYSHA WALKER ’16

If you would like to support industrial distribution students, contact:

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A Class of 2015 Student establishes an endowed scholarship for her fellow classmates.

oundation

Art

for A&M's Sake

From their sanctuaries in the Memorial Student Center, the Forsyth and Stark Galleries beckon passersby to experience the world of art.



Small informational text label next to the painting.



When most people think of crowd control, they likely picture unruly masses and perhaps even riot police. For Heather Ann Bennett, crowd control means something entirely different—for her it's a cart filled with practically priceless artifacts, a pair of purple nitrile gloves, and an ability to tell students walking through the Memorial Student Center (MSC) to look out.

"I always make sure we move pieces using the buddy system—one person to push the cart and another to tell students to watch where they're going," said Bennett, the collections manager for Texas A&M's Forsyth Galleries. "Most students are pretty good about paying attention to us, though."

The cart—protected like a presidential motorcade—is on its way to "the vault," a climate-controlled repository locked by fingerprint scanners and filled with various kinds of art. This space holds items from the permanent collection of the

University Art Galleries when they are not displayed in either of Texas A&M's main galleries, the J. Wayne Stark Galleries or Forsyth Galleries. In fact, only 10 percent of the collection is exhibited at a time, a setup that gives the objects a "rest period" in a controlled environment between exhibitions.

When not on a mission to transport pieces to their safe haven, Bennett handles pest monitoring and disaster planning—"We do have a panic button," she emphasized—and keeps the exhibits clean.

She is part of an eight-person team that works full-time to curate exhibits, plan educational programming, photograph and measure objects, handle security, preserve artwork and increase foot traffic within the galleries. And while the galleries run like well-oiled machines, the latter of these initiatives has required extra effort in the last couple of years.



(Top right) Exhibitions in the J. Wayne Stark Galleries typically change every six to eight weeks. The galleries featured a private collection of art nouveau pieces during the 2014 fall semester. (Below right) Cathy Hastedt, director of the University Art Galleries, is intent on getting more foot traffic in the galleries.

During the MSC renovation, the Stark Galleries were shut down for three years, and the Forsyth Galleries moved to a temporary location in Downtown Bryan. Because of these changes, the number of gallery visitors dropped from roughly 45,000 visitors annually to less than half that. Now, both spaces are back within the MSC, along with added signage to encourage students to pay them a visit.

Cathy Hastedt, director of the University Art Galleries Department, is focused on re-establishing the galleries, not only for the program's sake but also for the benefit of Texas A&M students. "You can learn a lot just by walking around the art galleries and enjoying what you see," she said. "By not coming in, students are missing out on that opportunity."

Many students pass by the spaces without realizing the treasure trove they contain. But thanks to a team effort, that trend is slowly reversing. For Thomas Trinkl '16, a sport management study abroad student from Austria, a happenstance stroll into the Stark Galleries one evening allowed him to discover some artwork from his native country. "I walked by a couple of times before, and thought I might as well stop by since I had a half hour to spend," said Trinkl. "Coming from Europe and having visited art galleries there I have an appreciation for art, so it was nice to stop by and see what Texas A&M has to offer. There's some beautiful art here."

Napping Permitted

The University Art Galleries are uncluttered, serene spaces with high ceilings, white walls and the footstep echoes characteristic of museums. "We don't even mind if students use the benches within the space to nap," said Lynn McDaniel, communications specialist for the University Art Galleries. "It's perfectly fine if people want to come here just to recharge their batteries."

But even though napping is permitted, the gleaming glass and deliberate brushstrokes that fill the galleries are better appreciated with open eyes.

In the Forsyth Galleries, visitors can observe the delicate precision of English Cameo and Steuben glass—one of the world's leading collections of such decorative art. They can take in brightly colored Tiffany vases and explore 19th and 20th century American paintings.

Established in 1989 through an endowment by Irma and Bill Runyon '35, the Forsyth Galleries house the Runyon's personal collection of art, a cache that consists of approximately 1,500 pieces. The gallery rotates its display of objects three times annually, and the space also hosts traveling exhibitions. A recent exhibition, "In Company with Angels," displayed a collection of seven opalescent Tiffany stained glass windows depicting divine messengers. The current exhibition, "Winslow Homer and the American Pictorial Press," explores the work of the 19th century American landscape painter and printmaker known for his dramatic seascapes.



Downstairs from the Forsyth Galleries are the J. Wayne Stark Galleries. Here visitors will find works by Texas artists (also part of the university's permanent collection) and traveling exhibitions ranging from traditional fine arts and crafts to history, anthropology and science.

J. Wayne Stark '39, the founding director of the MSC, began the art collection. Exhibitions typically change within its two rotating gallery spaces every six to eight weeks, and a third gallery space within Stark displays items from the permanent collection.

In fall 2014, the galleries featured "Inspired by Nature: Graphic Design in the Art Nouveau Period," works from the private collection of John and Cindy Delulio of Calvert, Texas. This spring, both the Stark and Forsyth Galleries are showing contemporary and historic representations of Native Americans in art as well as art by Native Americans in respective exhibitions. Previous exhibits have included Fabergé pieces and works by Edgar Degas.





“Art is not boring, and if it doesn’t make you think, it’s not doing its job.”

—Cathy Hastedt, director, University Art Galleries Department





“I’ve had to pinch myself
because I’m surrounded at work by so many
amazing pieces of art.”

—Amanda Dyer, assistant director, University Art Galleries Department



(Top left) The University Art Galleries are uncluttered, serene spaces with high ceilings, white walls and the footprint echoes characteristic of museums. (Below left) Amanda Dyer, assistant director of the University Art Galleries.

The Stark Galleries are funded through the University Advancement Fee and bookstore funds. In addition, two internal galleries within Stark are named in honor of donors who made significant gifts to support the arts.

Believing that Texas A&M needed an art gallery to develop more well-rounded students, Sara and John H. Lindsey '44 of Houston provided seed money to build the Stark Galleries. As a result, one of the gallery spaces within Stark is the Lindsey Gallery.

A second gallery space within the Stark Galleries is named for Mary and James B. Crawley '47 of Norman, Oklahoma. Avid supporters of the arts at Texas A&M, the Crawleys created a preservation and maintenance fund for the art collections within the MSC.

Even with supporters like the Crawleys and the Lindseys, the staff still has aspirations for the galleries that will require additional outside partnerships. "We would adore having an acquisition fund to fill in the collection with pieces we don't have and to help us with our educational mission," said Hastedt, whose team is developing a plan to determine which artistic milieus could use enhancing.

"We've had times in the past where we couldn't move fast enough to acquire a piece, and it was sold to another buyer," added Amanda Dyer, assistant director of the galleries.

Additional support would also help the galleries host more educational workshops, store additional artwork, support an endowed curatorship, or invite other traveling exhibitions, which can be especially expensive due to the costs associated with transporting fragile artworks cross-country.

"I've had to pinch myself because I'm surrounded at work by so many amazing pieces of art, but we're always interested in bringing in exhibitions that dovetail with our permanent collection to show how our pieces fit in the bigger scope of the art world," said Dyer.



Dorothy Hood, *Space Riders*, acrylic on canvas. Purchased in memory of Richard Frank Miller '80 by his parents.

Art is Not Boring

Because the galleries are located centrally on campus, they are in a prime location for classes and study groups to convene. Drawing and performance studies classes have used the galleries for interpretive work, literature classes have gathered there for inspiration, and floral design groups have used them to display their own creations.

The spaces are flexible not only in terms of the audiences to whom they cater but also in how they can be navigated. Viewers are invited to explore the open rooms any way they like—as McDaniel emphasized, "There's no right or wrong way to go through a museum." And they are welcome to experience a range of emotions, from inspiration to consternation.

Two springs ago, the Stark Galleries hosted the photography exhibition "The Absolute Truth and Nothing but Lies," which juxtaposed the work of a documentary photographer with a Hollywood studio photographer. While the one artist's images were very raw—a man on an autopsy table, for instance—the other's were posed and highly stylized—a transvestite in full drag and a smoldering, Photoshopped celebrity. Needless to say, the pairings garnered attention.

"Art is not boring, and if it doesn't make you think, it's not doing its job," said Hastedt. "Good art should stimulate conversation. Even if it's, 'I don't get it,' or, 'My 3-year-old could do that!' That's a starting point." ☞

—BY MONIKA BLACKWELL

To support the University Art Galleries, contact:

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To contribute online, visit give.am/TAMUArtGalleries.

To view a video, visit give.am/TAMUArtGalleriesVideo.



CLAYTON WILLIAMS JR. '54 AND HIS WIFE MODESTA
CREDIT TEXAS A&M WITH DOING MORE FOR THEM THAN
THEY CAN EVER REPAY.

TRANSFORMATIVE GIVING

THE TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION HONORS THREE PHILANTHROPIC
COUPLES WITH THE 2015 STERLING C. EVANS MEDAL.



Three self-made Texas couples who built successful companies in oil and gas and in ice cream are the Texas A&M Foundation's 2015 Sterling C. Evans Medal winners.

The Foundation awarded its highest honor in late February to philanthropists Modesta and Clayton Williams Jr. '54 of Midland and to Evelyn and Ed Kruse '49 and Verlin and Howard Kruse '52, all of Brenham.

"These couples' lifelong devotion to Texas A&M University, transformative contributions and volunteer leadership have shaped the university's progress and influenced countless Aggies," said Foundation President Ed Davis '67. "Evidence of their support is seen in two prominent Texas A&M facilities, the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center and the C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park. Their generosity has inspired others to support the university, and their reputations for integrity and excellence reflect favorably on Texas A&M."

Williams and the Kruse brothers descend from Texas pioneers who valued strong ethics, hard work and education. They followed in their fathers' footsteps, later rising as successful entrepreneurs committed to improving their alma mater, communities and state. All three are members of the Corps Hall of

Honor, winners of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Outstanding Alumni Award and the Mays Business School Kupfer Distinguished Executive Award, as well as The Association of Former Students' Distinguished Alumni Award.

A LEGEND AMONG WILDCATTERS

Oil-and-gas wildcatter, one of America's largest landowners, farmer and rancher, Brangus breeder, real estate developer, telecommunications mogul, banker, big-game hunter, Mariachi singer and conservationist—all accurately describe Williams, whose larger-than-life story is as film-worthy as his hero, John Wayne.

Williams, fondly known as Claytie, is chairman, president and CEO of Clayton Williams Energy Inc. and has drilled almost 3,000 wells primarily in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Mexico during his legendary career. He has made and lost several fortunes in the volatile oil and gas industry, all while holding fast to the morals he learned at his father's knee.

"My dad was influential in setting the ethics and standards I've followed my whole life," he said.

Clayton Williams Sr., Class of 1915, graduated in civil and electrical engineering after serving in World War I. He was a West Texas miner, surveyor, engineer and oilman. He and his son both are members of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum Hall of Fame in Midland. After the Depression, the senior Williams settled in Fort Stockton, where he was a Pecos County commissioner, a rancher and farmer, and finally a historian who wrote books to help preserve the region's rich history.



FOLLOWING HIS FATHER

The junior Williams grew up in Fort Stockton and naturally followed his father's lead when it was time to go to college. Initially, he struggled with Texas A&M's academic demands and military structure, but now admits that the experience helped him understand leadership and develop business skills.

"It was hard on a boy raised with the freedom of ranching and farming," he said. "I spent the first year and a half thinking about quitting." As a freshman, he played in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and joined the swim team. Later, he participated in intramural boxing.

After graduating with an animal husbandry degree in 1954, Williams joined the U.S. Army. He returned to Fort Stockton in 1957 to sell life insurance. Later that year, he and a partner began brokering oil and gas leases and promoting wells. They drilled their first successful well in 1959.

"It's been a good business. For more than 50 years, the oil and gas industry has treated me well," said Williams, who along with his family owns 51 percent of Clayton Williams Energy, a public company. "Several times I've had to cut back and make difficult choices. My life has been a series of tremendous highs and lows, but a great life."

He is proud of building a company worth hundreds of millions and of the 20-plus-year service records of many employees he considers family. However,

Williams calls his greatest achievement "being married for almost 50 years to a good woman who has supported me even in my failures."

A former model who ran a modeling school in Midland, Modesta Williams shares her husband's love of the land

and find his company almost \$90 million in debt. Rather than declaring Chapter 11 bankruptcy, he worked his way back to profitability in 1997 after years of layoffs, downsizing, renegotiating with lenders and selling ClayDesta National Bank, ClayDesta Plaza, airplanes, artwork, real

"MY DAD WAS INFLUENTIAL IN SETTING THE ETHICS AND STANDARDS I'VE FOLLOWED MY WHOLE LIFE."

—CLAYTON WILLIAMS JR. '54—

and sense of adventure. She grew up in Big Spring, spending many weekends on her grandfather's ranch, where she learned to hunt and ride horses. She attended Texas Tech University and studied business at Texas Christian University before leaving college to earn a living. Modesta served as a director of ClayDesta National Bank, which survived the 1980s banking crisis that recorded 1,600 bank failures nationwide, and designed the 183-acre ClayDesta Plaza. Using her instinctive eye, she created offices and a spectacular bank lobby with an atrium waterfall that became a community centerpiece.



SUCCESS AND FAILURE

Although Williams has been wildly successful, he has faced some uphill battles. In 1990, he lost the Texas governor's race to opponent Ann Richards. "I felt like I was six-foot-four when I was running for governor, and four-foot-six when Ann Richards beat me," said Williams, who doesn't dwell on mistakes but takes solace in knowing the campaign paved the way for conservative Texas Democrats to vote Republican.

A year later, he almost lost his business. After adroitly navigating the 1982 recession and mid-1980s oil bust by selling off wells and ClayDesta Communications and paying off \$500 million in debt, he returned from the campaign to

estate, ranch land, cattle and other assets.

"The mark of a man is how he handles defeat," he said. "We eventually paid back everyone we owed."

During those turbulent times, Williams fulfilled a commitment to Texas A&M that many assumed he would be unable to meet. In 1984, he pledged \$2.5 million to build a new multimillion-dollar alumni center. When oil prices plunged from \$40 to \$10 per barrel in 1987, the final \$1.7 million payment was due. Despite his financial woes, Williams honored his pledge, living up to the All-American Wildcatters Association motto, "*Our word is our bond.*"



MORE THAN HE CAN REPAY

A die-hard Aggie, Williams credits Texas A&M with doing more for him than he can repay.

The Williamses have shown their gratitude by contributing more than \$7 million to the university they love. A 1979 gift of a 1 percent overriding mineral interest on oil and gas leases has generated millions for scholarships, academic programs and athletics. The couple also supports the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, the Texas A&M University Press, the Texas A&M University President's Council, the 12th Man Foundation and The Association of Former Students.

They have established a Sul Ross Scholarship, a Corps of Cadets 21st Century Scholarship and a \$1 million endowment supporting the Berg-Hughes Center for Petroleum and Sedimentary Systems in the College of Geosciences.

Williams has devoted time and expertise to Texas A&M, serving on numerous councils and teaching graduate entrepreneurship classes in the Mays Business School.

The couple passed their love of Texas A&M to their family. Four out of five children, two sons-in-law and three of their nine grandchildren are Aggies.

At 83, Williams thrives on “getting things done,” but he does not take his own accomplishments too seriously.

“You need to be able to laugh at yourself and say, ‘I’m not perfect, but I’m doing the best I can.’ ”



THE ICE CREAM KINGS

Ed Kruse '49 and Howard Kruse '52 learned Texas A&M's core values from their father long before they ever stepped foot on the College Station campus. The brothers grew up 40 miles from Texas A&M in Brenham, where their father E.F. Kruse led Blue Bell Creameries for 32 years and set high standards by which his sons and grandson still operate the privately-held company.

Ed served as chairman, president and general manager from 1968 until

1986, when he was named chairman and CEO and Howard was named president. Howard became president and CEO in 1993, and Ed's son Paul Kruse '77 assumed the company's leadership in 2004.

E.F. Kruse was the youngest son of a respected farming family descended from German immigrants. The first in his family to attend college, he graduated from Southwest Texas State Normal College in San Marcos. He was a World War I veteran and school teacher before joining the struggling Brenham Creamery Co. in 1919 at age 23. During the next three decades, he transformed Blue Bell from a local butter-making cooperative into a growing ice cream company.

“Blue Bell has been run for 96 years by our family, and it has never lost money, not even during the Great Depression,” said Ed Kruse, who still serves as Blue Bell's chairman.

ED KRUSE '49 AND HIS WIFE EVELYN BELIEVE IN EDUCATION AND HELPING OTHERS. BLUE BELL CREAMERIES' SUCCESS ENABLED THE KRUSES TO GIVE BACK GENEROUSLY TO TEXAS A&M.



“Blue Bell also has never laid off any employees,” added Howard, now president emeritus and a Blue Bell board member. “That has occasionally meant sacrifice. Our father did not cash his first six months' paychecks, because he did not want to put the company in the red. We couldn't have inherited any greater direction in life than from him.”



A STRONG WORK ETHIC

Ed and Howard began working at Blue Bell during summers when they were 13 and 10 years old. They earned 10 cents an hour and worked 48 hours per week.

Both Kruses were drawn to Texas A&M because of its agricultural acclaim, particularly in dairy manufacturing. Both were members of the Corps of Cadets, but Ed found his niche on the varsity swim team while Howard was intrigued by dairy science.

As Ed approached graduation, he asked his sister for dating suggestions. She mentioned Evelyn, who was then

attending Blinn College and working several jobs in hopes of becoming a registered nurse. After their third date, Ed told his best friend that he was going to marry Evelyn. She graduated from Blinn but decided not to go to nursing school when Ed proposed. The couple has been married for 64 years and has four Aggie children (two sons died at age 45) and 21 grandchildren. In addition to caring for her family, Evelyn has been active in her church and enjoys gardening and saltwater fishing.



BACK TO BLUE BELL

In 1951, after working for two years at Swift & Company in Fort Worth, Ed joined Blue Bell as sales supervisor. When his father died of cancer later that year, Ed succeeded his father as Blue Bell manager. He was 23 years old.

“It was quite a responsibility,” Ed said, “but I knew no one else could do the job, and I was going to give it my best shot.”

HOWARD KRUSE '52 AND HIS WIFE VERLIN BELIEVE THAT AGGIES ARE STRIVING TO MAKE TEXAS A&M ABSOLUTELY THE BEST THERE IS.



Like his father and brother, Howard was also 23 when he joined Blue Bell in 1954 following service in the Korean War. The two brothers worked well together. “Ed handled sales and administration, while I directed operations and research and development,” said Howard. “We were in competition with Borden and other national companies and it was daunting.”

Blue Bell stopped making butter in 1958 when the Kruses began to focus full-time on making the best ice cream in the country. Technological advances in the 1960s led to increased production and sales and the ability to expand beyond the Brenham area.

Besides advancements within his company, Howard experienced a significant personal change. Verlin, an 18-year-old lab technician who went to work at Blue Bell after graduating from high

school in nearby Columbus, had noticed that Howard worked all the time and thought he needed a break. She asked him to go fishing with her, and a year later, they married. Much of her 52-year marriage has been spent caring for their four children (three of whom are Aggies), but Verlin also enjoyed leading scout groups, volunteering at church and area veterans’ and medical charities, and painting. The couple has seven grandchildren.



THE FLAVOR THAT BUILT BLUE BELL

In 1969, after two years of research and development, Howard introduced Blue Bell’s biggest all-time seller, Homemade

Vanilla. The flavor he created catapulted Blue Bell to its current ranking among the three top-selling ice creams in the country even though its products are available in only 23 states and less than one-third of the nation’s supermarkets.

“It took several years to develop the proper flavor, ingredients and texture. It was a risk, so we made it in limited numbers at first. Now Homemade Vanilla is the No. 1 vanilla ice cream sold in the nation,” said Howard. “It tastes like ice cream Grandma cranked by hand.”

Looking back on their careers, Ed, 87, and Howard, 84, said it has been rewarding to work in an industry “that makes people feel good” with “the happiest food in the world.” Both have been

industry leaders and are members of the Texas Business Hall of Fame and the Dairy Products Institute of Texas Hall of Fame, but they attribute their success to their wives, who they said devoted themselves to their families and homes so they could focus on business. Blue Bell's success has enabled the Kruses to give back generously to Texas A&M and their community.



THE BLUE BELL FAMILY

In 2010, the two couples committed \$1 million each in addition to a \$5 million gift from Blue Bell to complete the \$24 million renovation and expansion of Texas A&M's baseball stadium, C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park.

"Texas A&M suggested naming it the 'Kruse Family Park,' but Ed and I wanted to honor the Blue Bell family," said Howard. "We're a family operation, not just because the Kruses have led the company for three generations, but also because of our dedicated employees, who own 40 percent of the company."

In addition, the Kruses contributed nearly \$1 million to provide various agriculture scholarships and faculty fellowships, including an endowed scholarship in honor of their father and three President's Endowed Scholarships. They also support the 12th Man Foundation, The Association of Former Students and the Corps of Cadets.

fellowship, a scholarship and two fellowships.

The Kruses' relationship with former President George H.W. Bush dates back to 1994, when a *Dallas Morning News* profile of Howard and Ed reported who they would most like to invite to dinner.

"I said George and Barbara Bush; my brother said Jesus Christ," Howard recalled. "President Bush wrote back and said, 'Barbara and I were flattered to read about whom you'd invite to dinner. But we have a fine idea. How about you all coming to our place sometime for that dinner or lunch? In fact, since it is unlikely that Ed's favorite dinner guest can make it, except in spirit, bring your brother, Ed, along too.' "



SHARING THEIR BLESSINGS

The Kruses' belief in philanthropy started with church stewardship and has spread to other areas, said Howard, who along with Ed has been honored as Washington County Man of the Year. They have generously supported area educational, athletic and medical charities as well as Kruse Village, a Brenham retirement community.

"Our family has received so many benefits in business and in this community. We give back with great thanksgiving," said Verlin. "We feel blessed and want to help others; education is so important," added Evelyn.

the best there is. "We are common folks doing things uncommonly well," they said. ☺

— BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

To watch a video about Sterling C. Evans '21, visit give.am/EvansMedalVideo2015.

Evans Medal RECIPIENTS

1998

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

2000

John H. Lindsey '44

2001

Leslie L. Appelt '41

2002

H. R. "Bum" Bright '43

2004

Minnie Belle Heep
Herman F. Heep '20

2005

Jon L. Hagler '58

2006

George P. Mitchell '40

2008

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

2010

L. Lowry Mays '57

2011

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

2012

Dan A. Hughes '51
Dudley J. Hughes '51
Nancy M. Terry
Howard L. Terry

2013

Reta K. Haynes
Harold J. "Bill" Haynes '46
Patricia C. Kruger
Weldon D. Kruger '53

2014

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

2015

Evelyn Kruse
Edward F. Kruse '49
Verlin Kruse
Howard W. Kruse '52
Modesta Williams
Clayton W. Williams Jr. '54

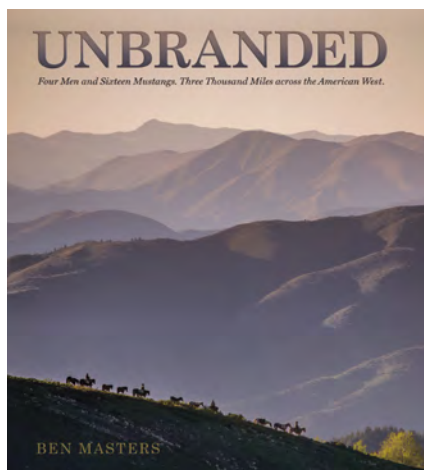
"IT HAS BEEN REWARDING
TO WORK
IN AN INDUSTRY THAT
MAKES PEOPLE FEEL GOOD."

—HOWARD KRUSE '52—

In 1998, they jointly contributed \$1 million to endow the dean's chair in The Bush School of Government and Public Service, now filled by Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Subsequent Bush School gifts from the Kruses totaling more than \$1 million established a pro-

When thinking about the legacy they want to leave, Ed and Howard said they want to be remembered for caring about other people. Like Blue Bell employees dedicated to making excellent ice cream, Howard noted, Aggies are striving to make Texas A&M absolutely

Opportunity



One of about 60 new titles the Texas A&M University Press will publish this year, *Unbranded* joins more than 1,500 other books that bear the press's imprint.

Pressing On

NEW FUNDING FOR THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS WILL ENHANCE ITS REPUTATION AS A RESPECTED BOOK PUBLISHER.

Small American flags hung from the fence at the end of a seldom-traveled dirt road along the Arizona-Mexico border. The April day was calm and clear, a perfect 65 degrees, and the Huachuca Mountains beckoned to the north.

The scenic outpost marked the starting point of an epic 3,000-mile border-to-border horseback trek made by four Aggies: Ben Masters '11, Ben Thamer '11, Thomas Glover '12 and Jonny Fitzsimons '12. For more than six months, the men traveled through the deep backcountry of the American West on mustangs, from Mexico to Canada, for personal adventure and to bring wider attention to the plight of wild horses on public lands.

Their trip of a lifetime has since formed the basis of a documentary film, which is now traveling the domestic and international film festival circuit, and also a book. *Unbranded: Four Men and Sixteen Mustangs. Three*

Thousand Miles across the American West was released by Texas A&M University Press in late February.

The book introduces readers to the young horsemen, their traveling companions, and the project's namesakes: the wild mustangs adopted and trained to make the difficult journey.

One of about 60 new titles the press will publish this year, *Unbranded* joins more than 1,500 other books that bear the Texas A&M University Press imprint.

Shannon Davies, editor-in-chief, hopes *Unbranded* will recast expectations of what scholarly presses produce and advance the national impact of the Texas A&M imprint.

The History of Texas A&M

One of Texas A&M University Press's missions is to support and publish history of the university.

Footprints in Aggeland: Remembrances of a Veteran Fundraiser by Robert L. Walker '58 offers instructive and sometimes amusing vignettes of the veteran fundraiser's encounters with a wide range of benefactors to Texas A&M.

Released in February, *Famous Trees of Texas: Texas A&M Forest Service Centennial Edition* by Gretchen Riley and Peter D. Smith, updates its classic 1970 book with some newly designated trees—living links to the state's storied past. The book's release coincides with a series of statewide events for the Forest Service centennial celebration and an ongoing exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Engineering Agriculture at Texas A&M: The First Hundred Years by Henry C. Dethloff and Stephen W. Searcy, another new book, explores the history of the department—its people, its activity and its growth—and projects the department's future for its second century.

The press has a number of backlist titles focusing on the institutional history of Texas A&M, from vignettes of war heroes in *Texas Aggie Medals of Honor: Seven Heroes of World War II* by James R. Woodall, to a comprehensive history of the development of the Memorial Student Center in *Building Leaders, Living Traditions: The Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M University*.

For more information on Aggie books, visit tamupress.com.



Texas A&M University Press Editor-in-Chief Shannon Davies and Director Charles Backus with a few of their favorite books.

"All of our books provide authoritative knowledge or original scholarship, but a book such as *Unbranded* also extends our reach and impact to general readers and makes them passionate about the subject covered," Davies said.

Value for Authors and Readers

Founded in 1974 during a short boom of university press openings across the country, Texas A&M University Press aims to select and publish books that enhance the university's strengths and confirm Texas A&M's credentials as a top-tier research university.

Over the years, the press has developed a worldwide reputation in a dozen or more academic fields (including physical anthropology, nautical archaeology, military history and presidential rhetoric), and has also staked its claim as the foremost publisher of general interest books on all aspects of Texas, from its history and cultures to its natural resources. This diversity of specialized subject areas ensures that the press attracts a broad mix of authors who are authorities in their respective fields.

One recent example is Paul Chaplo, who used his unique skillset to photograph the breathtaking Big Bend landscape from the air. His book, *Marfa Flights: Aerial Views of Big Bend Coun-*

try, presents a hawk's eye view of the ruggedly beautiful region.

"It has been most rewarding to team up with the creative professionals at Texas A&M University Press," Chaplo said. "Their collaborative spirit, tireless support and insistence on quality is inspiring. As I have traveled on the *Marfa Flights* book tour, I have realized that my publisher stands head and shoulders above other presses."

New Directions

To ensure continued growth, the Texas A&M press develops new publishing collaborations with departments and programs on the College Station campus and at several other Texas A&M system institutions.

During an age in which e-books are changing the landscape of publishing, the press is also committed to being at the forefront of digital publication. Through collaborations with e-book vendors like Amazon Kindle, Barnes and Noble's Nook and the Apple iBookstore, the press is finding new ways to reach readers in an electronic domain.

In addition to these knowledge-based collaborations, the press also benefits from private donations. Outside support allows the press to fund key leadership positions and student internships that provide professional ex-

periences for their Aggie holders. Gifts can support press needs ranging from underwriting the highest quality book design to acquiring the latest publishing and distribution technologies.

Donors like the late John Tom Campbell '45, a rancher from Brady, Texas, understand the importance of supporting the press. In 2009, Campbell gave a \$2 million planned gift to establish the Edward R. Campbell '39 endowed chair in honor of his brother, the first such chair for a press director in the country. He also created a separate unrestricted \$5 million endowment for the press.

"The press contributes significantly to the outreach of the Texas A&M brand and the fulfillment of the institution's core mission of disseminating authoritative knowledge far and wide," said Press Director Charles Backus, who holds the Campbell chair. "Not every university is equipped with this unique tool, and there is value in supporting such an entity. The recognition the press brings to the university enhances Texas A&M as a whole."

And with a book on its shelves like *Unbranded*—a compelling story of mustangs, western heritage and open spaces—the press is only just turning the page on a bright future of publishing at Texas A&M. 🐾

—BY HOLLI KOSTER
PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING MANAGER
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS

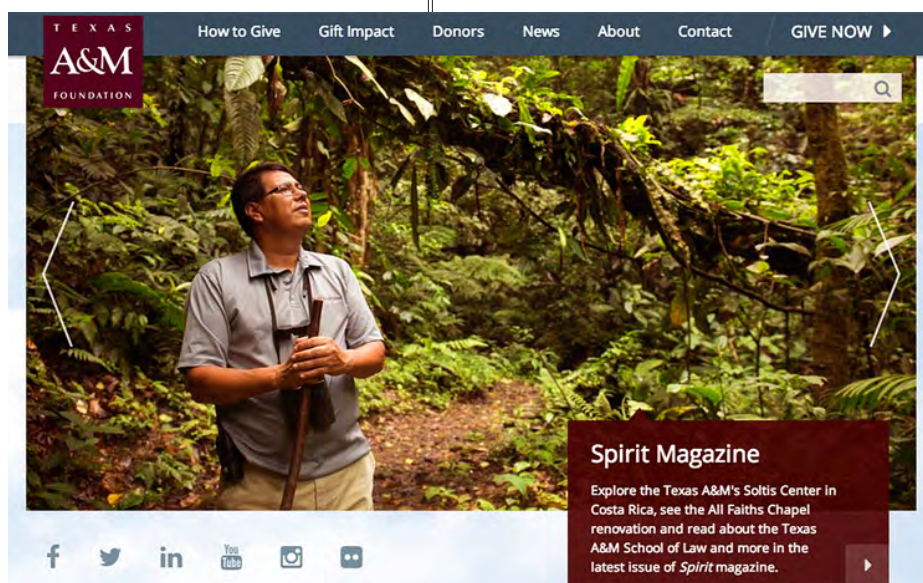
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To make a gift to the Texas A&M University Press online, visit
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To view a video about the press, visit
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@Foundation



The Texas A&M Foundation launched a revamped website in October. Check out the updated look at our new address, txamfoundation.com.

New Website, Newsletter Launch

The Texas A&M Foundation launched a new website in October, which offers an innovative, user-friendly design that eases navigation and provides greater accessibility across technologies, including smartphones and tablets. Check out the updated look at our new address, txamfoundation.com.

In conjunction with the new website, the Foundation launched a monthly e-newsletter with content tailored to its donors and other friends. "The newsletter highlights the tremendous impact Texas A&M is having on the state, nation and world," said Foundation Marketing Manager John Zollinger.

Electronic *Spirit* subscribers will now receive *Spirit* content via the newsletter. Subscribe to the Foundation's newsletter at txamfoundation.com/subscribe.

Gifts from Within

We're pleased to continue our "Gifts from Within" series acknowledging the charitable efforts of Texas A&M Foundation employees and their personal commitment to giving back.

Senior Regional Director of Major Gifts Don Birkelbach '70 leads by example as a Texas A&M Foundation employee. With bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry, Birkelbach enjoys supporting his field of interest by funding scholarships for students pursuing degrees in chemistry.

"Chemistry forms the basis of so much of daily life, and I think it's important that we continue to support that activity," Birkelbach said.

In 2002, he established his first gift, the Dr. Minoru Tsutsui Memorial Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Chemistry. The endowment—which has funded seven scholars—was creat-



ed to honor his graduate adviser, who supported his education and helped launch his career.

Through a Don Birkelbach '70 \$70,000 individual retirement account, Birkelbach and his wife later established a planned gift, the Shirley and Don '70 Birkelbach Scholarship Fund in Chemistry.

"My education at Texas A&M University made all the difference in the world," said Birkelbach, who is also an Endowed Century Club member at

The Association of Former Students. “I was able to attend Texas A&M because of a scholarship, and I felt like I needed to pay back.”

The Birkelbachs also established a scholarship in 2013 to support first-generation students pursuing bachelor of science degrees in chemistry who are working part-time to finance their education.

After a successful career working for Dow Chemical Co., Birkelbach joined the Foundation staff in 2001.

“I enjoy working with the Foundation and helping others experience the same joy of giving back to this university,” he said. “I feel that if I’m not willing to commit a gift, why should I be asking others to make one?”

Ugly Sweaters Invade Hagler Center

The annual Foundation holiday party took on a new theme in 2014 as employees participated in an ugly holiday sweater competition. Sporting a garish 3-D plastic snowman diorama lined with garland, Kristen Luetge Morelius ’06 won the top prize of a

Kristen ’06 and Michael Morelius ’98



Employees Support Brazos Valley

Each year the Texas A&M Foundation participates in a United Way campaign to give back to the Brazos Valley community. For the fifth consecutive year, 100 percent of Foundation employees participated, raising more than \$12,000.

Foundation President Ed Davis '67 recognized the achievement by allowing employees to wear blue jeans every Friday through the end of 2014 and authorizing an extra half-day holiday.

Foundation teams also competed to raise food and monetary donations for the Brazos Valley Food Bank's Food for Families drive, bringing in 340 non-perishable food items for families in need and raising more than \$1,600.

Other employees, including the Maroon Coats, delivered, sorted and packed food during the annual drive.

During a morning shift at the Brazos Valley Food Bank, Foundation employees unpacked, sorted and packaged donated food items for distribution to the local community.



gift card to Saltgrass Steak House. Her husband Michael Morelius '98 is a director of development for the College of Science.

Development Staff Join Foundation

Annette Forst '88 joins the Foundation as assistant director of development for the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. She previously worked as a community relationship manager for the American Cancer Society in Grand Junction, Colorado, and Austin, Texas.



Annette Forst '88

George Grainger joined the Foundation as Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships in February. In this new

development position, Grainger will be responsible for identifying, cultivating and soliciting gifts from national foundations and individuals to support academic and research initiatives at Texas A&M.

He will coordinate with Texas A&M's provost and vice president for research as well as the Division of Research to identify academic and research programs focused on solving state, federal and global challenges that warrant private support.

Grainger previously worked more than 15 years as the senior program officer at Houston Endowment Inc., a philanthropic foundation that provides grants to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.



George Grainger

Postscript

I was 12 years old in 1970 and learning to play the trombone when my parents surprised me with a Texas Aggie Band stereo album and sheet music given to them by Lt. Col. E.V. Adams '29, director of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. I remember listening to that album on repeat and writing the slide positions over the notes I hadn't yet learned. As I progressed through junior high and high school in Channelview, Texas, my interest and desire to attend Texas A&M University remained strong. I was never too excited about the academic aspect; I just wanted to play in that band. For me, marching in the band would set the course of an unbelievable and unique story—mine.

In August 1977, my spectator's point of view changed when I became a brand new fish in the Aggie Band. The next four years were a roller coaster ride that touched on every human emotion almost every day. Significant academic challenges, demanding upperclassmen and the Corps of Cadets environment equipped me with a can-do attitude and helped me discover who I was and what I was made of. Words cannot begin to describe the life lessons I learned at Texas A&M and the feelings of doing the impossible.

After I graduated in May 1981, Col. Joe T. Haney '48 asked me to stay at Texas A&M to help him direct the band. I knew my answer was a "yes" the moment he asked me.



Now Forming at the North End of Kyle Field

During my 33 years as senior associate director of the Aggie Band, thousands of dedicated men and women have marched in our ranks and sound-ed recall. Marching and musical rehearsals keep me motivated. Charting drills, visiting with cadets and speaking to groups about the Aggie Band is my passion—seeing the band perform their drill on Saturdays at Kyle Field is the icing on the cake. Hearing the crowd reaction when I announce, “Now forming at the North End of Kyle Field...” over the stadium’s public address system is still surreal. But make no mistake, my voice speaks for an organization that gave me and thousands of other band members the opportunity to discover our passion and purpose in life.

Through all these years, I have witnessed opportunities evolve for students to participate in musical organizations in performance venues across campus. I’ve had the honor of working with talented instrumental and choral directors who are dedicated to the success of our students. Our team of directors, staff and more than 1,300 students make up our newly formed Music Activities Department within the Division of Student Affairs. The

Texas A&M administration has been supportive in helping us answer the demands of a large student population of musicians and agreed to an initiative that will greatly advance our mission: the development of a new Music Activities Center on Duncan Field.

Plans for the facility include an artificial turf field for the Texas Aggie Band and a large rehearsal room with state-of-the-art acoustics for our 400-plus-member Aggie Band, symphonic bands, choirs and orchestras. This exciting endeavor is gaining momentum as key stakeholders work to create a viable fundraising and construction plan. With your help, we will ensure that future Texas Aggies and their directors have the facilities necessary for continued excellence. 🎶

— BY LT. COL. JAY O. BREWER '81
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE BAND

To learn how you can support the future Music Activities Center, contact Cindy Munson '99, regional director of major gifts, at cmunson@txamfoundation.com or (800) 392-3310.

Give online now at give.am/SupportAggieMusic. View a video about the Aggie Band at give.am/AggieMusic.

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A great university stands on strong pillars.



12thmanfoundation.com

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



GeorgeBushFoundation.org

The George Bush Presidential Library Foundation raises funds to sponsor scholarships and programs to develop a new generation of dedicated public servants.



AggieNetwork.com

The Association raises the university's Annual Fund, which supports both alumni and student activities, academics and traditions.



txamfoundation.com

The Texas A&M Foundation solicits major endowed gifts from donors who decide the specific areas at the university they want to fund.

Living Laboratory Enhances Learning

A nature preserve located two miles from the Texas A&M University campus will act as a permanent, living classroom for students in the College of Architecture and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who will use the site for design and research projects.

The 7.43-acre David E. Schob Nature Preserve, located on Ashburn Avenue in the Eastgate subdivision in College Station, was a gift to the university from the late Schob, a Texas A&M history professor who taught 26 years and died in 2007. The official transfer of the land and site preparations delayed its use until this year.

The land contains a swath of untouched woods as well as the three-bedroom, two-bath residence Schob called home. The site also includes hiking trails, a drainage swale, two pergolas suitable



The 7.43-acre David E. Schob Nature Preserve is a living laboratory and field classroom for students and faculty to advance research, creative work and scholarship.

for small class gatherings and many plant and drought-resistant grass varieties.

Much of the site will remain undeveloped to facilitate a variety of research and educational projects related to urban planning, landscape architecture and recreation, park and tourism sciences. The two colleges will jointly operate the

preserve with help from the \$1.9 million endowed Dr. David E. Schob Fund.

Schob's residence will also be offered at a subsidized rate to students in exchange for conducting and coordinating research projects, contributing to education programs and providing general oversight at the preserve.

Farewell to Zachry

More than 800 Aggies said goodbye to the Zachry Engineering Center at a tailgate last fall as Texas A&M University broke ground for a new multimillion-dollar Engineering Education Complex.

Attendees left notes describing their favorite memories in the facility; took home pieces of aggregate from the 45-year-old building; and signed an I-beam that will be displayed in the new facility.

When construction is completed in 2017, the complex will be the largest academic building on campus. It will be used exclusively for undergraduate engineering education.

To support construction of the new Engineering Education Complex and the 25 by 25 Initiative, visit give.am/TAMU25by25.



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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TEXAS A&M
FOUNDATION

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Requests & Comments: Spring 2015

If you have a comment or question, call us at (800) 392-3310, email us at info@txamfoundation.com or mail this postage-free form. We encourage you to update your own contact information online at txamfoundation.com/update. Thank you!

FIRST NAME	LAST	TEXAS A&M CLASS YEAR
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	MOBILE PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS		

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

I have a comment/question:

☐ Please change my *Spirit* print subscription to electronic.

- ☐ Please contact me about making a gift to Texas A&M.
- ☐ I'd like to know more about making an estate gift (trusts, life insurance, bequests, gift annuities).
- ☐ I'd like to inform you of an existing estate gift.

I'd like to know more about supporting the following programs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Life Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Medicine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Corps of Cadets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush School of Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Affairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwight Look/Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> TAMU School of Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Human Development | <input type="checkbox"/> International Ocean Discovery Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geosciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Activities Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Science Center | <input type="checkbox"/> TAMU Coaching Academy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> TAMU Press |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mays Business School | <input type="checkbox"/> University Art Galleries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |

Other: _____

Contact the Texas A&M Foundation at:

401 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840-2811
(800) 392-3310 (979) 845-8161
info@txamfoundation.com
txamfoundation.com

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