

Spirit of SHARING

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MARCHING BEHIND THE BAND

By supporting Aggie musicians, the late Glen Hunt Jr. '61 left an impact that will be heard for generations to come.

The Good Left Behind



In September 2007, the late Randy Pausch—a widely respected American professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University—delivered a famous lecture about achieving childhood dreams. The speech was given just a month after he was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer.

Delivered to more than 400 people at Carnegie Mellon, his hour-long talk began with these words: “We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand.” He continued with a moving and often humorous reflection on finding the good in other people, working hard to overcome obstacles and living generously. His optimistic outlook was an inspiration to many on how we should live our lives. The speech attracted widespread media attention, became an internet hit and was viewed millions of times before Pausch passed away in July 2008.

His story came to mind when reflecting on this issue of Spirit of Sharing. I think it is every person’s greatest hope to live a meaningful life, serve as an inspiration

to even just one person and leave behind something to be remembered by. We all interpret this individually and make our mark in different ways, but a common denominator is that everyone, fundamentally, wants to leave a legacy.

We are proud to share the stories of some of those legacies in each issue of Spirit of Sharing. This edition’s cover story features a realized estate gift from the late Glen Hunt Jr. ’61, who made it part of his legacy to support Texas A&M University. Following his passing in 2017, his gift is now having a visible impact on Texas A&M’s music programs. His story is just one of many. During the last fiscal year, there were 98 realized planned gifts to the Texas A&M Foundation amounting to more than \$24 million. More than \$10.6 million will fund research efforts, while \$10.2 million will fund scholarships. The remaining amount will support other areas on campus. In more ways than we realize, the Texas A&M we know and love was given to us as the parting gift of Aggies who loved this university with a passion.

These gifts not only strengthen our beloved institution, but also bestow life-changing opportunities for the countless many who study here, work here and interact with Texas A&M on a daily basis. As you read this issue, consider thinking about what you want your legacy to be.

Thanks for all you do.


Tyson Voelkel ’96
President, Texas A&M Foundation



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CONTENTS

4

LASTING LEGACY

It's a Giant World Out There

...and Amy '91 and Robert Bacon '91 want students to experience it. See how their planned gift will help students go global.

6

COVER FEATURE

Marching Behind the Band

By supporting Aggie musicians, the late Glen Hunt Jr. '61 left an impact that will be heard for generations to come.

10

DISCOVER

Three Gifts That Pay You

Learn about dual-benefit gifts, which can help you support Texas A&M University while increasing your earnings.

12

GIFT SPOTLIGHT

Giving from the Heart

Betty and Frank Thurmond '51 are expressing their love for Texas A&M University through four charitable gift annuities and multiple other endowments.

14

A LOOK BACK

The Brazos Bottom Boogie Busters

In 1946, Dean of Engineering Howard Barlow led a faculty band to statewide recognition.

Amy Bacon '91 published a book about Lawrence M. Ludtke's famous Texas A&M sculptures, including the statue of Gen. James Earl Rudder '32. Learn more on [page 4](#).

GIVING FROM WITHIN

Meet four Texas A&M faculty and staff members who established planned gifts as another way of giving back to the university.



CHARLOTTE AND WALTER BUCHANAN

For Charlotte and Walter Buchanan, an avid quilter and a distinguished engineering technology professor, respectively, Texas A&M is more than a university; it's home. Wanting to create a permanent impact in the College of Engineering, where Walter has worked for 14 years, the couple established a bequest in their estate that will fund an engineering chair for the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study.

The Hagler Institute provides an outstanding environment for research and scholarship at Texas A&M by recruiting world-class faculty fellows to study and lecture on campus. The chair will help attract top scholars from around the world to work directly with Texas A&M engineering instructors and students.

"These professors bring a breadth of knowledge to students and challenge them to grow through new opportunities and experiences," Charlotte said. "Having top-notch faculty is something we find very important to support."



CHARLES GILREATH

For many years, the KAMU broadcasting station and Sterling C. Evans Library have been vital resources for students and faculty at Texas A&M University. Hoping that future generations of Aggies will continue to benefit from them, Charles Gilreath, former associate professor and interim dean of the university libraries, created a bequest in his estate to provide unrestricted funding for both.

Gilreath attributes his time at the university libraries to his successful career and feels KAMU adds to the quality of life in the community. The station is Gilreath's main source for information and entertainment. "I enjoy the content they produce," he said. "It's high quality and worthy of support."

"I want to provide KAMU and Evans Library with resources that allow their administrators to help students and the community," he added. "The university is changing rapidly, so providing unrestricted funds will give administrators the flexibility they need to put the money to its best use."



DR. LESLIE EASTERWOOD '90 '95

Aggieland's recognition of the late Lt. Col. Roy Tisdale '92 has taken many forms, but the common denominator is Dr. Leslie Easterwood '90 '95, an equine veterinarian and clinical assistant professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Wanting to honor her lifelong friend following his passing in 2012, Easterwood worked with Tisdale's family members and friends to name a student lounge on the Quad after him. She then created a memorial Sul Ross Scholarship in his name to support members of the Corps of Cadets. Eventually, she expanded her commitment through a planned gift of life insurance to honor all Aggies who have lost their lives serving our country since 9/11.

"We made the decision to use this date because we felt that these Aggies were Roy's contemporaries," she said. To date, 37 fallen Aggies will be honored in the form of Sul Ross Scholarships through Easterwood's planned gift.



DR. RICH METTERS

Since 2011, Dr. Richard "Rich" Metters has worked to foster a spirit of camaraderie among faculty and staff in the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management at Mays Business School, known as one of the nation's top programs for its research.

As head of the department, Metters plans to keep that spirit alive not only through his leadership, but also by establishing a source of funding for future workplace celebrations through a bequest in his estate. "I believe that work shouldn't be a drudgery; it should be a joy!" Metters said. "Our accomplished faculty and incredible staff deserve to be celebrated, and doing so creates an environment for excellence."

Despite the importance of workplace spirit, Metters noted that event funding is often the first item to go when budgets are tight. His planned gift will ensure that his department's efforts will continue to be recognized through workplace gatherings that celebrate hard work.

It's a GIANT World Out There

BY CLARE FUSSELMAN '21



...and Amy '91 and Robert Bacon '91 want students to experience it.

See how their planned gift will help students go global.

When talking to Amy '91 and Robert Bacon '91, it doesn't take long to realize that Texas A&M University is a major part of their lives. No matter the topic, the conversation always seems to find its way back to their alma mater. "We are constantly reminded of the experiences and opportunities given to us during our time as students," Amy said. "Meeting other Aggies and finding those new connections built on a common love for Texas A&M is something we treasure and want to encourage in the next generation of Aggies."

The couple's love for Texas A&M motivated them to think about ways they could further the school's tradition of excellence. To show gratitude for the years of irreplaceable experiences and personal development they experienced at the university, the Bacons created a planned gift using a testamentary unitrust, or "give it twice" trust, to benefit future Aggies. This unique method of giving allows donors to use an asset—such as retirement accounts in the Bacons' case—to fund a trust after their lifetimes.

PUBLISHING HER PASSIONS

Aside from being a dedicated gift planning officer for the Texas A&M Foundation, Amy Bacon '91 is the proud author of two books about Texas A&M history, both published by Texas A&M University Press. Her first book, "Building Leaders, Living Traditions," explores the history of the MSC and its programs as a campus centerpiece from 1950 onward.

The second book, "Life in Bronze: Lawrence M. Ludtke, Sculptor" provides an inside look into the

life of prominent Texas sculptor Lawrence Ludtke. After meeting Ludtke as a student, Bacon immediately became fascinated by his work and felt inspired to write about his contributions to sculptures on Texas A&M's campus and throughout the country.

His work on campus includes the Gen. James Earl Rudder '32 statue; Danger 79er to honor Lt. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth '40; Arch 406, which depicts an architecture student and his dog; and the bronze bas reliefs of the Aggie Congressional Medal of Honor recipients in the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

AGGIES ABROAD

At the termination of the trust, their gift will support students who participate in international experiences through the Conway-Fitzhugh International Honors Leadership Seminar and the Leland T. and Jessie W. Jordan Institute for International Awareness. Both housed in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), the Conway-Fitzhugh seminar takes a select group of incoming freshmen to Italy for a two-week leadership experience, while the Jordan Institute facilitates international programming on campus as well as internship and living abroad programs. Additional funds from their gift will support a Regents' Scholarship and various engineering, business and liberal arts scholarships.

As the Bacons began thinking of areas to support, they reflected on their own time as students and how much they attribute their success to their MSC involvement. Amy studied abroad as a student while at Texas A&M and served on the MSC Council, developing leadership skills as an undergraduate. Although Robert didn't study abroad, he saw how positively international experiences impacted Amy and gained a passion for travel as well. Both decided to link this appreciation for international experiences with their love of the MSC and the global community focus of these two programs.

The Bacons also recognize that international experiences can set students apart in the competitive work-

STAYING ENGAGED

force, something Robert has seen the benefits of directly through his position as the site and operations manager at the ExxonMobil Chemical - Baytown Technology & Engineering Complex. They hope their scholarships encourage more students to take advantage of these opportunities. "We hope that the Aggies who receive our scholarships enter the world as confident young adults ready to make their own Aggie connections," Robert said.

MSC Director Luke Altendorf knew Amy and Robert as students and wasn't surprised to see them giving back. "They have always valued interactions with different cultures and supported the MSC's mission," he said. "Their gift is a tangible way for the MSC to continue producing leaders."

Knowing that their future gift will benefit the development of students like their daughter, who has also been involved in the MSC, is extremely fulfilling. "We are passionate about promoting international experiences because when combined with the values of leadership instilled in every Aggie, it leads to future leaders," Amy said. "For us, giving back not only gives us the opportunity to show our gratitude for the impact of those experiences, but also the opportunity to stay engaged with the university and, most importantly, benefit students."

To learn more about making a planned gift through your estate, contact Angela Throne '03 at athrone@txamfoundation.com or (979) 845-5638.





MARCHING BEHIND THE BAND

BY BAILEY PAYNE '19

By supporting Aggie musicians, the late Glen Hunt Jr. '61 left an impact that will be heard for generations to come.

Glen Hunt III '82 was 14 years old when his father, Glen Hunt Jr. '61, took him and his brother to a local joint to watch the Aggies play their annual football game against their rival Longhorns. It was November 28, 1975, and the trio had spent Thanksgiving break deer hunting outside the rural West Texas town of Ozona. Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin's football teams were ranked No. 2 and No. 5 in the nation, respectively, and the Hunts weren't going to miss the game for the world.

Hunt Jr. and his teenage sons hooted and hollered after every Aggie touchdown, and their enthusiasm had a curious effect on the sleepy bar. "Over the course of an hour or two, a whole bunch of folks wandered in, most of them from out of state," Hunt III remembered. As more and more patrons gathered around the TV, legendary running back Bubba Bean led Texas A&M to a 20-10 victory. "By the end of the game, my dad had everybody in there rooting for the Aggies."

This is how Hunt III remembers his father that day: sipping a Pearl beer in a Hill Country dive as he invited total strangers to gather around a fuzzy television set and share in his love for Texas A&M, if only for four quarters. Hunt Jr. was an Aggie of his own generation. He was humble and hardworking; outspoken, yet never craving the spotlight. When it was his time to go, he left as quietly as he lived. But even if they don't know it, future generations will hear his legacy when trumpets play proudly from the heart of Kyle Field.

A TRUE TEXAN

As a teenager in the late '50s, Hunt Jr. was working for a boat repair shop in Galveston, Texas, when his boss approached him with life-changing advice. Hunt Jr. had shown early proficiency with machines, and his boss recognized in him a gift for mechanics. "You're a smart kid," his boss said. "You don't need to fix boats for the rest of your life." He suggested that Hunt Jr. enroll at Texas A&M and earn an engineering degree. Though he had only a vague understanding of what the college experience entailed, Hunt Jr. took his boss' advice, moved to College Station and studied aeronautical engineering (now aerospace engineering). He was the first in his family to earn a college degree.

After graduation, Hunt Jr. started an industrious career as a contract engineer doing structural design work on aircraft for companies around the world. While working one such contract in St. Louis, Missouri, in the early '80s, he met and married his wife, Mary Angela Palm.

"My dad was a crusty old Texan," described Hunt III. "There's no other way to couch it." Hunt Jr. was a big game hunter with an almost spiritual fondness for the Old West who participated in "cowboy action shooting," a Western-style competitive shooting sport. Throughout the years, he wrote a series of humorous letters to Texas Monthly's "Texanist" column and even to Texas A&M faculty about perceived intrusions upon what he considered the quintessential Texan lifestyle. He walked the walk and talked the talk, and he took pride in where he came from. In the back of his mind, though, he always felt he needed to repay a debt to his college home.

A HALFTIME HERO

Whenever Hunt Jr. drove to an Aggie football game, Palm always joined, though she hardly ever paid attention to the action on the field. She attended games for one reason and one reason only: Come halftime, she would stand up in anticipation for the arrival of the nationally famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. For 10 minutes every game, Palm gave the band her undivided attention as they stepped off, marched, criss-crossed and painted elaborate patterns on their grassy canvas. After they ran off the field, Palm would promptly excuse herself and let Hunt Jr. watch the rest of the game while she read a book outside the Memorial Student Center.

Palm passed away in 2012 at age 64. A year later, Hunt Jr. gave \$50,000 to establish his first major gifts to Texas A&M: two endowed scholarships for Aggie Band members in Palm's name. Upon the completion of the new Music Activities Center in August 2019, the funds from one of these gifts transferred to name a practice room after Palm. In 2016, Hunt Jr. contracted terminal cancer. After he was diagnosed, he moved quickly to establish a series of IRA planned gifts through his estate to fund a scholarship for aerospace engineering students and another endowed scholarship for band members.

Hunt Jr. gave partly as a tribute to his late wife, but also out of a deep-seated appreciation for the university and the people there who supported him. Hunt III especially remembers his father's gratitude toward the late owner of Loupot's Bookstore, Judson E. Loupot '32 (aka "Old Army Lou"), who lent Hunt Jr. textbooks when he couldn't afford to pay upfront. "He just never forgot that

kindness," Hunt III said. "He always considered College Station to be the center of the universe."

Senior Associate Director of the Aggie Band Col. Jay Brewer '81 attested to his gifts' impact. "Generous gifts like Mr. Hunt's make such a huge and positive difference in the lives and educational pursuits of our bandsmen," he said. "Both the Mary Angela Palm Memorial Band scholarships supporting the new Music Activities Center and the Mary Angela Palm and Glen L. Hunt '61 Aggie Band scholarship will make a lasting impact on our instrumental, stringed and choral groups' success here in Aggieland. These are true examples of love for Texas A&M and its students."

"Generous gifts like Mr. Hunt's make such a huge and positive difference in the lives and educational pursuits of our bandsmen."

—COL. JAY BREWER '81

When Hunt Jr. passed away in August 2017, there wasn't a newspaper obituary. He didn't leave behind a large public following or even an online presence. His family knew about his planned gifts to Texas A&M, but he spoke of them offhandedly without any expectation for applause or recognition. Because of his gifts, however, countless students' lives will be changed either by scholarships they receive or the music those recipients make. How he was remembered didn't matter to him as much as the good that he left behind. Hunt Jr. didn't need fanfare. He just needed to know that the band would play on long after his song ended.

To learn more about making a planned gift, contact Angela Throne '03 at athrone@txamfoundation.com or (979) 845-5638. To contribute a major gift of \$25,000 or more to the Music Activities Center, contact Cindy Munson '99, senior director of major gifts, at cmunson@txamfoundation.com or (979) 845-7558. Give online at give.am/SupportAggieMusic.



- 1** The new John D. White '70 - Robert L. Walker '58 Music Activities Center celebrated its grand opening on Aug. 30, 2019.
- 2** Robby Reyes '20, Candace Clemmons '20 and Matthew Bohn '22 are among the first students to practice at the Music Activities Center.
- 3** The Dunlap Drill Field for Aggie band practice is an exact replica of Kyle Field.
- 4** Glen Hunt Jr. '61 had a fondness for the Old West and frequently participated in Western-style competitive shooting sports.

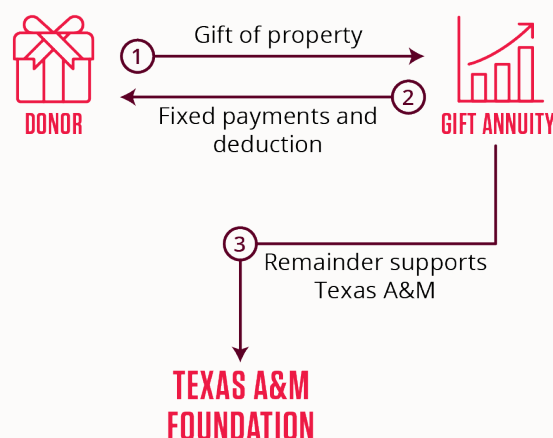
THREE GIFTS THAT PAY YOU

Learn about dual-benefit gifts, which can help you support Texas A&M University while increasing your earnings.

1 Immediate Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Texas A&M Foundation. In exchange for a gift of cash or securities, the Foundation agrees to make fixed payments for the lifetime(s) of one or two individuals. When the gift annuity terminates, the Foundation uses the remainder to benefit Texas A&M as you wish. Annuitants must be at least 50 years old when payments begin, and the minimum amount to create a gift annuity is \$10,000. Advantages include:

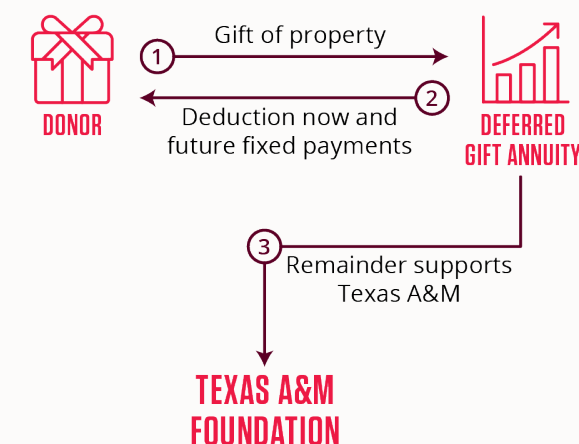
- Immediate charitable income tax deduction. A portion of each payment may be tax-free for a period of time.
- Tax advantages when using appreciated securities to fund the gift.
- One or two individuals who receive fixed payments for life.
- Payout rates based on age. The older the beneficiary, the higher the rate.



2 Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity

Individuals who do not need immediate payments can use a deferred charitable gift annuity. Much like an immediate gift annuity, a contract between you and the Foundation is created to make fixed payments for the lifetime(s) of one or two individuals. Payments are determined to begin at a future date most convenient to you. Advantages include:

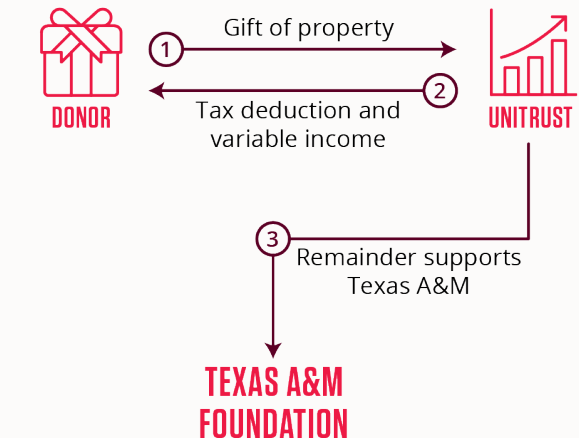
- Immediate charitable income tax deduction. A portion of each payment may be tax-free for a period of time.
- Tax advantages when using appreciated securities to fund the gift.
- One or two individuals who receive fixed payments for life.
- Payout rates based on age. The older the beneficiary, the higher the rate.
- Longer delay between the creation of the annuity and the commencement of payments, resulting in a higher payment rate.



3 Charitable Remainder Unitrust

A charitable remainder unitrust allows individuals to turn an appreciated asset that generates little or no income into a productive asset without paying upfront capital gains taxes on the sale. Through a charitable remainder unitrust, which can be funded with appreciated securities, real estate or cash, you can make payments to selected beneficiaries for their lifetimes or for a specified term of years. At the termination of the trust, the remaining assets are distributed into an endowment that benefits Texas A&M as you wish. Advantages include:

- Immediate charitable income tax deduction.
- Tax advantages when using appreciated securities or real estate to fund the gift.
- Payments from the trust with a set payout rate.
- Relief from the maintenance, tax and insurance obligations on real estate used to fund the charitable remainder unitrust.



GIVING

from the Heart

Betty and Frank Thurmond '51 are expressing their love for Texas A&M University through four charitable gift annuities and multiple other endowments.

By Michele Schevikhoven '21



Long-time friends of Texas A&M University, Betty and Frank Thurmond '51, are supporting the areas of the university they're passionate about through four charitable gift annuities. Their gifts benefit Aggie veterans, the Department of Construction Science, Silver Taps and the Corps of Cadets, ensuring future students have opportunities to succeed.

"The charitable gift annuities provide us a monetary benefit for life while also supporting Texas A&M, but we don't give back for the financial rewards or recognition," Frank said. "We give back because we want to do something good for Texas A&M. It's all because of our love for Aggies." The couple is excited to support students in the Corps and honor veterans pursuing a degree who sacrificed their education to serve in the military. Frank has been in the construction industry for the majority of his life and also sees a need for funding in the construction science department. Their gift will provide financial relief to students who choose to follow a profession in that industry. The Thurmonds' endowment for Silver Taps will support Texas A&M's time-honored tradition of recognizing students who pass away while enrolled at the university.

Frank often tells people, "I earned my degree from Texas A&M, but I got my education from the Corps." He learned invaluable skills like leadership and respect, which he translated into his profession. His education

was more than reading from a textbook; it was about absorbing life lessons. "You don't learn those in the classroom," he added. With the knowledge and skills gained from Texas A&M, Frank founded his own construction company in 1957, now called Bryan Construction Company.

Betty, a business graduate of Sam Houston State University, worked as a secretary for Frank's growing business before moving to an accounting firm in Dallas. The two went their separate ways, enjoying long and loving marriages of their own. It wasn't until both were widowed that they reconnected by chance and married in 2013, just in time for the Aggies' triumph over the Oklahoma Sooners in the Cotton Bowl. "When she found out I had Aggie football tickets, that sealed the deal!" Frank laughed.

The Thurmonds want to make an everlasting impact on students' lives and ensure they achieve their goals at Texas A&M. Along with their four annuities, the couple has created multiple other endowments, scholarships and funds for the university. "Supporting Texas A&M in so many ways makes us proud," Frank said. "I don't think I'd be where I am today without the help of the university."

To learn more about charitable gift annuities, see the "Discover" article on page 10.

She fulfilled a family

LEGACY

When Meghan Collier '19 took her first tour of Texas A&M University during her senior year of high school, she knew Aggieland was the place for her. It wasn't until she later researched her family history that she discovered her great-grandfather, who was once a student at Texas A&M, but didn't complete his degree due to financial struggles. With the support of a scholarship from the estate of the late Lou and C.C. Burton '42, Meghan picked up her great-grandfather's Aggie story and rewrote

the ending: She earned her bachelor's degree with university and English honors before enrolling in the Texas A&M School of Law, where she now studies in hopes that she can give others the same opportunity the Burtons gave her.

Planned gifts inspire passionate students like Meghan to better themselves through education. To learn how you can change young lives through a planned gift, visit txamfoundation.com/plan.



LEAD
by EXAMPLE

A LOOK BACK: 1946

The Brazos Bottom Boogie Busters

Starting in 1946, college faculty members could be seen playing horns and saxophones together with well-known Dean of Engineering Howard Barlow banging away at the drums. This group began with only an ad in The Battalion, but they soon adopted the unique name, "The Brazos Bottom Boogie Busters," as they grew in popularity. Barlow, founder and leader of the group, formed the band at the request of some students who were looking for acts to fill time at an upcoming engineering event. After that first show, the Boogie Busters quickly grew into much more than a background act. As a widespread favorite, Barlow's band performed a broad variety of popular dance selections at college and community events in addition to annually performing at the Aggieland Follies, a variety show. The Boogie Busters had a successful tenure for several years and achieved statewide recognition due to their captivating performances.

