

In gratitude for scholarship assistance he received 55 years ago, [Allan A. Marburger '60](#) is paying it forward through endowed scholarships for up to 67 Aggies each year. The 72-year-old cattle rancher's most recent \$250,000 gift brings his scholarship total to more than \$1.7 million.

"I received an Opportunity Award when I went to A&M, and it was certainly a help," said Marburger, who grew up and still raises cattle on the 800-acre Bastrop County ranch owned by his family since 1883.

He funded his agronomy degree with the award as well as summer jobs and calf sales.

"Neither of my parents went to college, but from day one, they wanted me to go. When I was a little boy, they gave me a cow, and the first six calves she had were heifers. Pretty soon, I had a small herd. I used them for my

4-H and FFA [Future Farmers of America] projects. When I sold a calf, we went to the bank and bought savings bonds for college," he said.

Marburger's scholarship gifts include two [Endowed Opportunity Awards](#), both providing \$5,000 over four years to high-achieving incoming freshmen with financial need. He prefers Endowed Opportunity Awards because "they're merit-based and they help students in my local area."

The first award has a preference for graduates of Marburger's alma mater, Giddings High School. Endowed in 1990 with \$80,000, it supports four students a year.

The second award, established in 2008 with \$500,000, assists 20 students from Bastrop and Lee counties. Additional gifts in 2009 and 2010 increased this endowment to \$1 million, creating 10 more scholarships. Another 10



BIG ♦ TIME BENEFACTOR

GRATEFUL AGGIE CREATES DOZENS *of* SCHOLARSHIPS

✿ ALLAN A. MARBURGER '60 OF BASTROP COUNTY HAS FUNDED NEARLY 70 AGGIE SCHOLARSHIPS. BY CREATING HIS SCHOLARSHIPS WITH A PREFERENCE FOR STUDENTS LIVING NEAR HIM, MARBURGER HELPS HIS OWN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.



scholarships will be added by next year, bringing the total number of recipients to 40 per year.

WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

Shella Schulze Hightower '05, a Giddings High graduate, received an Endowed Opportunity Award funded by Marburger that helped her complete concurrent bachelor's and master's degrees in finance.

"It's a wonderful blessing for students like me from small high schools without as many scholarships. It allowed me to take out fewer loans and opened up a world of new opportunities," Hightower said. She is a Certified Public Accountant working for a Houston marine engineering firm and volunteers as the accountant for Wear Blue: Run to Remember, a running community that serves as a living memorial for military members killed in action.

Marburger Endowed Opportunity Award recipient Chase Dube '13 is a first-generation college student. As valedictorian of Lexington High School, he attended A&M for free his first year but now appreciates the Marburger award,

which covers most of his tuition costs and supplements federal loans. Dube, an A&M football team walk-on, plans to be a mechanical engineer.

"Because I am a walk-on Texas A&M football player, I am not on a scholarship," he said. "If it weren't for Allan Marburger and his award, I would be short \$1,250 every year I'm in college. That comes to a grand total of \$5,000. This scholarship is giving me the ability to play football instead of working a supplemental job to pay my tuition and living expenses. Being a football player has given me access to tutors, which helps me maintain a high GPA."

GIVING BACK IN TWO WAYS

Marburger established his first scholarship at A&M in 1989, endowing the Allan A. Marburger '60 [President's Endowed Scholarship \(PES\)](#). This flagship academic scholarship provides \$12,000 over four years to high-achieving high school graduates who meet specific college entrance-exam standards and who also have well-rounded extracurricular, leadership and community volunteer experience.



[Andrew D. Holcombe '99](#), a science teacher at Connally High School in Waco, is one of six Aggies who have benefited so far from the Marburger PES. It allowed the graduate of Yoe High School in Cameron to set his sights higher than community college and “took a lot of the financial pressure off.”

“This scholarship is great, and one day I hope to do something similar,” said Holcombe, who earned a bachelor’s degree in entomology and a master’s in curriculum and instruction.

MORE MARBURGER GIFTS

Marburger added his second Endowed Opportunity Award and two other scholarships after four oil wells were drilled on his farm a few years ago.

In 2007 he established an endowed scholarship in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences with \$25,000. The first scholarship, available to students interested in mixed and large animal practices, was awarded this year.

In 2008 he gave \$500,000 for an endowed scholarship in the College of Agriculture and

Life Sciences. So far, 39 students who have been active in agricultural organizations and lived on a farm or ranch are benefiting from the one-year scholarship.

“I’m glad I could contribute these scholarships. I’m not only giving back to A&M, but I’m also giving back to my own community,” Marburger said.

An only child who never married and has no children, Marburger plans to establish more scholarships in the future and to leave a portion of his estate to Texas A&M. This generous legacy will benefit his A&M family and countless Aggies who also may be inspired to pay it forward for future generations. ♪

— BY NANCY MILLS MACKEY

To support Texas A&M students, contact:

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Left ♣ MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR CHASE DUBE '13 RECEIVES AN ENDOWED OPPORTUNITY AWARD FUNDED BY ALLAN MARBURGER. THE SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWS DUBE TO BE A WALK-ON FOOTBALL PLAYER RATHER THAN WORKING.

Right ♣ SHELLA SCHULZE HIGHTOWER '05, A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, SAYS HER SCHOLARSHIP FROM ALLAN MARBURGER WAS “A WONDERFUL BLESSING.” SHE IS SHOWN WITH HER HUSBAND, CAPT. ANDREW HIGHTOWER, AND THEIR SON, SAMUEL.

