



# TEXAS LEADER

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2015

# 'WE DID IT!'





## Message from the President



**W**e did it! We completed the Campaign for Texas in spectacular fashion, raising \$3.12 billion over the past eight years. The success of this campaign has transformed the University in ways big and small. And thanks to the generosity of loyal supporters like you who provided for The University of Texas at Austin in your estate plans, this transformation will continue long into the future.

The Campaign for Texas broke fundraising records across the state, and your planned gifts played a critical role in that success. **Future gift commitments to the University during the campaign totaled \$485,056,050.** That's nearly half a billion dollars that will have an impact throughout the University for years to come, providing scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, funding to recruit and retain top faculty, support for cutting-edge research that will improve lives, and new and renovated facilities to ensure that The University of Texas at Austin continues to offer the best possible environment for teaching and learning.

The actual number of donors who made planned gifts during the Campaign for Texas is also outstanding. **During the campaign, we added a total of 1,232 planned gifts, an increase of 111 percent from the beginning of the campaign.** These gifts came from donors of all ages and backgrounds and will benefit every college and school across the University. Here are just a few of the donors you will read about in this issue of Texas Leader:

- **T.W. "Tom" Whaley**, whose bequest established one of the largest endowments for undergraduate and graduate financial aid at the Cockrell School of Engineering.

- **Wolfgang and Julie Niedert**, who have provided the University with unrestricted funds for academic support through their estate plans.
- **Joanne Ravel**, a retired UT Austin faculty member whose planned gift will create a scholarship fund for students at the new Dell Medical School.
- **Coleman Tharpe**, a UT Austin student and staff member who has made a provision in his estate plans for the College of Liberal Arts Honors Program.
- **Patrick Davis**, senior associate dean and Eckerd Centennial Professor in Pharmacy, and his wife, Tamera, whose bequest will benefit the College of Pharmacy.
- **Melissa Myer**, a UT Austin staff member who has made the Moody College of Communication a beneficiary of her retirement plan.

These stories, and so many others like them, demonstrate the many and varied ways that our alumni and friends are leaving their legacy at The University of Texas at Austin. Our commitment to changing the world is made possible because you have decided to join us in that effort, and for that we offer our gratitude and our congratulations.

The Campaign for Texas may be over, but what you've started here is only just beginning.

Bill Powers  
President  
The University of Texas at Austin



## From black belts to businessmen, donors share a sense of gratitude

During the Campaign for Texas, people of varying ages, races, occupations, and means stepped forward with future gifts that helped UT meet and surpass its \$3 billion goal by \$120 million. Despite their differences they share a love for this university. Here are some of their stories.



### Patrick and Tamera Davis

**Occupation:** Medicinal chemistry professor

**Giving to:** College of Pharmacy

Professor Patrick Davis loves teaching so much he does it in his free time. His day job is teaching medicinal chemistry and serving as senior associate dean for academic affairs at UT's College of Pharmacy. When he's off the clock, he and

his wife, Tamera, volunteer as tae kwon do instructors at a Southwest Austin studio. Both are senior fifth-degree black belts.

"I enjoy everything about teaching," he said. "I like teaching in large lectures and in smaller elective courses. I like teaching one-on-one, and I think it's really what keeps me vital."

Dr. Davis also loves UT, where he has taught for 35 years.

"I can honestly say when I look back on these 35 years — if I had it to do over again — there's nothing I would change," he said. "I owe a lot to this university in terms of my personal and professional growth."

That gratitude inspired the Davises to include UT in their estate plans. Their gift will benefit a discretionary fund for the College of Pharmacy dean and create a scholarship in their names, with an emphasis on helping students who might not qualify for other types of aid.

"I worry about those kids who fall in the gaps," Mrs. Davis said. "Their parents may make too much for them to qualify for financial aid but the parents don't have

enough to provide sufficient support for their children's full educational costs."

Dr. Davis, a leader in advancing teaching innovation and the use of instructional technology, has won numerous awards for his teaching and service to the university, including the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award, the UT System's Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, the College of Pharmacy's Texas Excellence Teaching Award, and the Civitatis Award. He was admitted to the UT Academy of Distinguished Teachers as well as the UT System's Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and in 2013 was named one of the nine inaugural Provost's Senior Teaching Fellows. He also holds the Eckerd Centennial Professorship in Pharmacy.

"Pat has been such a contributing force to the life of the university, and the university life has been so rewarding for us that I definitely want there to be something that carries our name that supports the university into the future," Mrs. Davis said.





## Wolfgang and Julie Niedert

**Occupation:** managing partner of a private equity firm; speech therapist

**UT degree:** bachelor's in government, '98

**Giving to:** unrestricted general university fund

Like many other diehard Longhorns, Wolfgang Niedert has an opinion about where his firstborn should apply to college. The difference: he's starting a little early. His daughter won't be born until April.

"My wife already has joked that I'm going to make sure that our child goes to UT, but I said, 'No, no. If she can go to Harvard or Stanford, she's more than welcome, but she's not going to A&M or even Rice,'" he said. "Those aren't options."

And Oklahoma?

"That we didn't need to even discuss," he said.

Rivalry banter aside, Niedert and his wife, Julie, a Kansas State University System alumna, are serious about The University of Texas at Austin, and they're serious about making a difference.

"We both have had sort of a community and charitable inclination ever since we were

younger," Niedert said. "We thought that what makes the biggest impact in changing lives is a higher-education degree."

From there, choosing UT was easy, and Niedert took out a life insurance policy with the university as beneficiary. For now, the couple isn't dictating how their gift should be used, preferring that UT use the money where it is needed at the time.

"None of us knows what the university's going to need in 50 years. And that's the exciting part," Niedert said. "That's the point. I hope it goes to something that I don't even know about yet."

"Maybe there's some absolutely life-changing or game-changing research or opportunity that comes out of Texas and the funding that I was able to provide. Perhaps even my child will grow up and be able to take advantage of this gift in some capacity."



## Melissa Myer

**Occupation:** Development associate, University Development Office

**UT degrees:** bachelor's in music theory, '88; bachelor's in journalism, '92

**Giving to:** S. Griffin Singer Student Support Endowment in the Moody College of Communication

A professor's words of encouragement spurred Melissa Myer to give to her alma mater years later. Frustrated trying to break into a male-dominated profession, Myer turned to journalism professor S. Griffin Singer.

"I remember him telling me don't ever let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do because you're a woman," Myer said. "Nobody had ever told me that, not even my parents and not anybody in my family. It was a revelation."

Through a bequest and an IRA beneficiary designation, Myer is contributing to a scholarship in Singer's name.

When it came time to look for a job, Myer didn't hesitate applying to be a policy analyst for the Texas House of Representatives.

"I got the job and I excelled," she said. "It was one of the best learning experiences I ever had."

As her career progressed, her UT degree opened doors.

"It's responsible for everything I have and everything I am," she said. "I think that had I not gone here, had I gone anywhere else, I would not have had the same chances and options that I did."

Giving during the Campaign for Texas was no coincidence.

"I think the campaign made me realize that I need to do this now," Myer said.

"I wanted to make sure that my affairs were squared away and that the things that were important to me went to the right cause and that there was absolutely no ambiguity as to where I wanted that to go."

With her gift, Myer is making a statement about her views on higher education.

"I think I'm doing what everybody should be doing," she said. "We should take an interest in the next generation, particularly in education. That's the best way to make a difference."





## Coleman Tharpe

**Occupation:** student

**UT degree:** bachelor's in anthropology and radio-television-film, '15

**Giving to:** College of Liberal Arts Honors program

Like a lot of UT alumni, Coleman Tharpe was so grateful for his experience on the Forty Acres that he wanted to give something back. He got his affairs in order

and made a will leaving everything to the university.

But there was a big difference; he was only 21 and still in school.

He laughs about it now, but at the time he was planning a study-abroad trip to Europe and was afraid something would go wrong on his first travel outside the U.S.

"I had a horrible feeling that I was not going to come back," he said. "Once I got there, it was fine. It was the most beautiful trip I've ever taken in my life, and I was so well prepared."

With the scare behind him, he had no reservations about keeping his gift in place.

"We're now six months past the Europe trip, and I don't want to change it," he said. "There's no one else who it should go to. Every bit of it is what I've earned because of what I've learned since I've been at UT Austin. I get very emotional when I try to talk about it because I love the university so much."

Tharpe is in the Liberal Arts Honors program and a recipient of the prestigious Dedman scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts.

Tharpe included only one requirement for his gift — that it go to the Liberal Arts Honors program.

"That is the program that gave me my scholarship, and this is the best way I know to pay it back," he said. "It was such a great experience that I want to make sure that it continues to be a life-changing experience for students for years and years to come."

Tharpe came to UT from the tiny Alabama town of Fairhope — "It's a lot smaller than the Jester Center," he laughs — but the Lone Star State is now his home.

"It took me 19 years of my life to get a Texas driver's license, and I never want any other one," he said. "The University of Texas at Austin has made me into everything I am today. I'm so different from three years ago when I started school here. Now I have a critical eye, and I have a cultural compassion. I met people here in Austin and at UT that I never before thought I would meet because I never would have come into contact with them in rural Alabama."



## Jan Fox

**Occupation:** retired UT nursing instructor

**UT degree:** master's in nursing, '71

**Giving to:** Texas Exes for nursing scholarships

Fresh out of the convent and a vow of poverty, Jan Fox didn't have the money to go back to college for the master's degree that would further her nursing career. But then she attended a workshop given by UT's School of Nursing, where she learned that other people were willing to help her attend UT and pursue her goals.

Decades later, the former nun hasn't forgotten, but this time around she's on the giving end. She added a gift in her will to create the Jan Fox Opportunity Scholarship for minority School of Nursing students.

"Someone gave me a scholarship, and I just want to give back," she said. "That's the bottom line."

Her ideal scholarship recipient?

"A student who has drive, motivation, passion," she said. "They have smarts, they have the intellectual ability, but they are struggling, drowning, trying to come up with the money to go to school."

Because the university is not allowed to consider race or ethnicity in awarding scholarships, Fox's gift is being managed by the Texas Exes, who have different requirements.

"I gave the scholarship specifically to the black and brown students, not because I don't love them all, but it has been my experience that these students seem to struggle more frequently financially," she said.

Fox witnessed other struggles, too, during her career teaching at UT. She remembers an African-American student confiding in her, the school's only black faculty member, that she felt out of

place. In response Fox helped organize the African American Nurses Student Association, a support and mentoring network. The idea took off, and Fox made sure students knew she was always there for them.

"They talked about their lives, how they were trying to make it work for them," she said. "I think it was a loving environment. I know it was."

Fox came to Austin from New York when her convent sent her to work at Holy Cross Hospital on Austin's east side.

"Believe it or not, black patients could not go to Seton or St. David's," she said. "So we took care of them on the east side. We took care of them and, of course, times have changed beautifully."

Fox retired in May 2014 after 42 years as an instructor at UT's School of Nursing.

"It's been a wonderful journey," she said.





## Joanne Ravel

**Occupation:** chemistry professor emeritus

**UT degrees:** bachelor's in chemistry, '44; master's in chemistry, '46; doctorate in chemistry, '54

**Giving to:** Dell Medical School

Joanne Ravel thinks there's more to being a great doctor than having the highest grades or being wealthy enough to pay for medical school.

She would know. The UT alumna spent more than half a century married to a physician, and — as the university's first female faculty member in chemistry — worked with plenty of pre-med students in the classroom.

"It is so expensive to go to medical school now that if we don't have aid for those who financially can't do it, then we're just going to have a bunch of rich kids who get to go to medical school," she said. "There are a lot of people out there who would make just as good if not better physicians who can't afford to go to medical school."

Through her will, Ravel is giving to the university's new Dell Medical School to create a scholarship for a future primary-care physician — one with her husband's bedside manner and personal touch.

"I want this to allow a student like my husband to be able to go to medical school, even if they're not in the top 10 percent of premeds," Ravel said.

Ravel's husband, Jerome Ravel, died in 2003. He earned his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston before moving to Austin in 1947 to practice medicine as an internist, a job he would hold for 40 years before his retirement. He was among the first Austin doctors not to have a segregated waiting room.

"He was a great one-on-one physician," Joanne Ravel said.

In the 1960s, Jerome Ravel tried to bring a medical school to Austin, so the gift holds special meaning for his wife.

"This is something he wanted for a long time," she said.

The couple met on Thanksgiving Day 1945 at the Texas vs. Texas A&M football game. They were married the following March.



## Mike and Elizabeth Jansen

**Occupation:** director of development at Texas State University; pharmacist

**Giving to:** Texas Performing Arts, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

Mike Jansen has seen gift planning at UT from both sides. He's been a university representative working with alumni and friends to realize their philanthropic

goals, and now he's a UT donor himself. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have made a bequest to benefit Texas Performing Arts and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

The gift to Texas Performing Arts will provide tickets to UT students who can't afford them. The Jansens' gift to the Briscoe Center will provide general support. Jansen hopes to bring history and the performing arts to UT students.

Besides giving donors a chance to support their passions, estate giving also encourages reflection, Jansen said.

"It gives them a chance to think about what is really important to them and what kind of legacy they want to leave," he said. "How do they want to be remembered? What kind of values do they want to pass to family and friends? It's a very powerful statement as to what is important to them."



## Anonymous

**Giving to:** International Office

In an increasingly global economy, obtaining an internationally focused education is more important than ever. With that in mind, an anonymous University of Texas at Austin alumna has made a generous estate gift commitment to the International Office to ensure its graduates leave the

Forty Acres with the cultural competency needed to compete in the workforce.

"We are living in a time that is dominated by two things: technology, and an economy that is becoming progressively global," says the donor and Plan II graduate, whose passion for international education arose from time spent teaching in Kuwait. "Unless we have exposure to international students and other parts of the world, we're going to be behind."

The institutional home of Study Abroad, International Student & Scholar Services, ESL Services, Global Risk & Safety, and Special Projects, the International Office at The University of Texas at Austin provides students, faculty, and staff access to international and cultural exchange. This gift will enable the International Office to offer even more opportunities to learn about the world through education at UT Austin and beyond.



# GIFT PLANNING & THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS

## ALL GIFTS



amount raised

**\$3.12 billion**

NUMBER  
OF DONORS  
**271,980**

amount raised in the final year

**\$862 million**

## PLANNED GIFTS

amount received in  
realized planned gifts

**\$146,616,218**

amount of new  
planned gifts

**\$485,056,050**

**1,232**

new planned gifts

percentage increase  
in number of gifts

**111%**

## OUTRIGHT IRA GIFTS RECEIVED

number of donors

**227**

number of gifts

**510**

amount received

**\$8,111,153**

## ENDOWMENTS FOR STUDENT SUPPORT



number of  
scholarships and  
fellowships awarded

**1,269**

number created

**66**

## ENDOWMENTS FOR FACULTY SUPPORT



number of  
faculty who  
benefited

**33**

number created

**13**

## ENDOWMENTS FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

number of students and  
faculty who benefited

**225**

number  
created

**41**







## THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR

No one suspected that Tom Whaley was quietly planning a game-changing scholarship

*"I live but one life, and may live that all too poorly, but I have a vision of a better life that someone coming after me may live. I spend my time, my thought, my money, my very self in imparting that vision. And my life is reincarnated in theirs, stronger, finer, greater, than I ever dared to be." — Eugene C. Foster*

When T.W. "Tom" Whaley, Jr., died in 2013, he left behind a home filled with books, family mementos, and carefully typed pages of his favorite quotes, including the one above. He also left his \$35 million estate to the Cockrell School of Engineering to "fund scholarships for Texans of top academic merit." It is the largest gift UT Austin has received for a scholarship endowment.

Born in Lorena, Texas, in 1935, Whaley spent his childhood moving from place to place during the last years of the Great Depression. He was adopted at age 15 by parents who made education a priority.

After attending the Allen Academy in Bryan, Texas, and serving in the Army, he earned two degrees at Texas A&M University before working for General Dynamics on the F-111 aircraft.

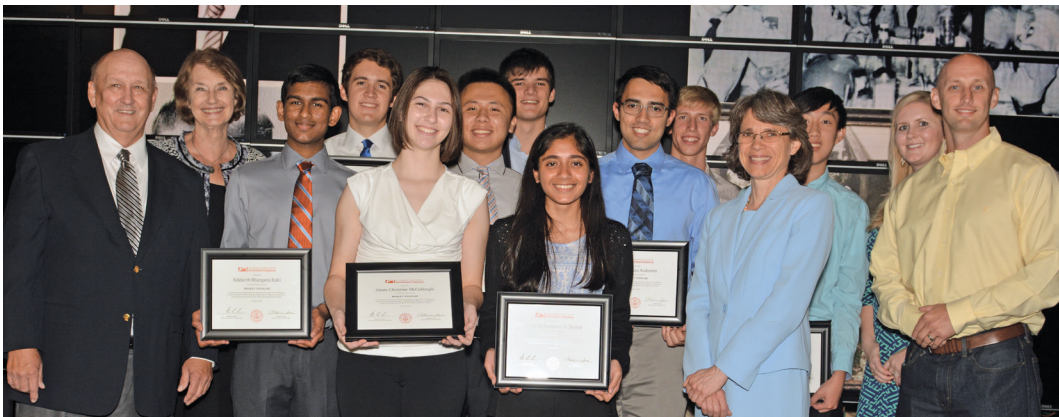
He earned his PhD in electrical engineering from UT Austin in 1968, where he studied signal strength of electromagnetic waves. He was recruited by the CIA at the height of the Cold War because of his expertise in antenna technology. Later, he returned to Texas to help manage his family's 4,000-acre farm. Whaley's wealth originated from oil and gas royalties, and it grew as he accumulated and oversaw a

portfolio of stocks and bonds. He drove a no-frills 15-year-old Oldsmobile and owned a modest home, and those who knew him never suspected he was the millionaire next door.

Whaley was a charter member of the Friends of Alec annual giving program, named for the Cockrell School's patron saint whose legend dates to 1908. He made small, annual gifts for decades with a request for anonymity, and this private man surprised UT leaders with his transformational bequest.

The T.W. Whaley, Jr. Friends of Alec Endowed Scholarship is projected





to provide \$1.6 million in annual scholarships to top undergraduate and graduate students. It will increase the school's scholarship funding by 25 percent. This evens the playing field when it comes to recruiting the state's most exceptional students who receive full-ride scholarship offers from top universities across the country. The Cockrell School is competitive academically — ranking No. 10 in the nation and best in the state for engineering by U.S. News & World Report. Now, thanks to the Whaley gift, the school can compete with scholarship offers, too.

The first class of Whaley Scholars includes 34 students from across Texas pursuing studies in all seven engineering departments. They were welcomed to campus by David Anderson, the executor of Whaley's estate. David shared stories of his friend and read them part of a letter: "The truly educated man is never alone. If he has no other company than his own, he can think his own thoughts and read

his own books, in which he can enjoy the society of kings and queens of the wisest and noblest of the earth." This wisdom was passed down from Whaley's father and was written April 26, 1912.

"Dr. Whaley's vision will be achieved time and time again, year after year," said UT Austin President Bill Powers. "His generous bequest will provide incredible opportunities for Texas' most talented young people, opening the door for them to remain in Texas and attend one of the world's great engineering schools."

Freshman Marshall Tekell is from Whaley's hometown of Waco. "Receiving the Whaley Scholarship changed my life in a radical way," said the chemical engineering major. "Not only does it remove an enormous burden from my family, it allows me to envision my education far into the future. Dr. Whaley essentially gave me the freedom to follow his example, and to hopefully make the world a better place." ✨

PREVIOUS PAGE: PRESIDENT BILL POWERS, MATT ANDERSON, ANN ANDERSON, DAVID ANDERSON, AND COCKRELL DEAN SHARON WOOD CELEBRATE T.W. WHALEY'S GIFT. ANN AND DAVID ANDERSON HOLD A PHOTO OF WHALEY AS A YOUNG MAN. THIS PAGE, CENTER: DAVID AND ANN ANDERSON JOIN THE WINNERS OF FULL-RIDE WHALEY SCHOLARSHIPS. (THE ENDOWMENT AWARDS BOTH FULL AND PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.) THE ANDERSONS' SON, MATT, ALSO A UT ENGINEERING GRAD, IS AT THE FAR RIGHT, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, ALORA, A MCCOMBS ALUMNA AND A TERRY SCHOLAR. BELOW: WHALEY AND HIS WIFE, KATHLEEN JEAN ARMOR WHALEY.

## The gift that keeps on giving — mineral interests

In addition to the \$35 million gift, the Whaley estate includes 700 mineral interests across 10 states. With the recent rise in drilling productivity from hydraulic fracturing and other technological advances, Anderson believes the university can expect much more to come. "Dr. Whaley's annual mineral income was typically in the neighborhood of \$300,000 to \$500,000," he said. "But there have been years when it was as much as \$1.8 million."

Unique to most educational institutions, The University of Texas System has an office of University Lands that will manage the Whaley mineral interests and maximize their impact for UT Austin. A team of experienced professionals — geologists, engineers, land specialists, lawyers, and accountants — manage mineral interests given to the university by alumni and friends in 21 states and Canada.

*If you are interested in gifting mineral interests and/or land now or through your estate, please contact us at 800-687-4602 or [giftplan@www.utexas.edu](mailto:giftplan@www.utexas.edu).*





# Advantage UT

How estate gifts position the university for success in research, recruiting, and learning

When you give to UT, you aren't just giving to an institution; you're giving to people. You're helping a dean bring the best graduate students to the Forty Acres. You're helping a brilliant professor work on game-changing research. And you're helping prepare freshmen to follow in his footsteps.



## Chih-Kang (Ken) Shih

**Occupation:** physics professor

**Benefits from:** *Arnold Romberg Chair in Physics*

In the highly competitive quest to discover scientific breakthroughs, philanthropy can be an important advantage, both in hiring top researchers and in financing their work.

Physics professor Chih-Kang (Ken) Shih, who holds the *Arnold Romberg Chair in Physics*, heads the Nanoelectric Materials Research Group, which investigates nanoscale science and nanotechnology.

Chairs like his benefit faculty in many ways. The money is an important complement to federal grants.

"Federal grants have a lot of rules and guidelines you have to follow," he said. "They're so rigid that they actually make things less efficient."

The process of awarding grants takes time, time researchers don't have when they're trying to become the first with a particular breakthrough.

"I would say that the competition is over by the time you hear from the result of the funding agency," Shih said. "But a chair will allow us to immediately investigate some of the preliminaries that put us at the forefront of the research. I think that makes a big difference."

Another advantage of philanthropic funding is that it helps retain rising faculty stars.

"As we start getting a lot of outside recognition, the endowment is very attractive so we will not be lured away," Shih said.

Graduate students play an important role in faculty research. Shih's endowment gives him the flexibility to cater to their needs — literally. Even something simple like providing lunch can make a difference to the graduate students working in his group. That's possible with an endowment but not a grant.

"It sounds silly, but graduate students, once you provide something, they're more active and willing to participate," Shih said. "Food doesn't cost that much, but to them it's a strong incentive."

The chair Shih holds was created because of an estate gift from Helyn Romberg. Funds from the gift created an endowment in honor of her husband's uncle Arnold Romberg, who was a physics professor at UT from 1923–1940.

## Doug Dempster

**Occupation:** dean, College of Fine Arts

You don't have to be an arts aficionado to benefit from supporting the College of Fine Arts.

"The arts are a very significant part of the overall economy and the export economy both of Texas and the United States, especially as the larger economy shifts toward service industries," said Dean Doug Dempster. "That's often overlooked. People always think about new technology as the only economic engine of progress, but the arts and entertainment are a significant part of the economy, and that's what this college is contributing to the state of Texas and the larger U.S. economy."

Home to renowned programs in acting, playwriting, archaeology, art and art history, music, and more, the College of Fine Arts couldn't do it without philanthropy and estate gifts. Without your gifts, the college would have to say goodbye to visiting artists and scholars, faculty travel, and scholarship students, who represent more than half of the 1,900-member student body.

"The mission of a public university is to provide educational opportunity based on talent, hard work, and promise, not



based on the privileges of birth or wealth,” Dempster said. “We’re investing not only in a young person’s future, but we’re actually investing in the future of our whole society and culture. We should all be investing in public education.”



## Randy Diehl

**Occupation:** dean, College of Liberal Arts

**Giving to:** College of Liberal Arts

College of Liberal Arts Dean Randy Diehl doesn’t sugarcoat it when he talks about the importance of future gifts, also known as planned gifts or estate gifts.

“Without planned giving, we simply wouldn’t be able to compete at the level that a tier-one institution needs to compete,” he said. “It’s absolutely indispensable, and I’m not stretching it at all.”

Because of planned giving, Diehl has been able to address one of his priorities: increasing stipends for the most sought-after graduate students.

“For the very top applicants who we’re trying to recruit, we create special fellowships. The ones that we use to attract the very cream of the crop are funded entirely by the planned gift of Jane Holsey,” Diehl said. “That gift just has transformed our ability to recruit graduate students. It’s very selective. It’s not a huge number, but it’s the ones who make the real difference in terms of quality of the program.”

Graduate students are important for many reasons. They teach undergraduates, and they assist faculty members with their research. And perhaps most of all, the quality of an institution’s faculty is directly re-

lated to the quality of its graduate students.

“Great graduate students help to attract great faculty,” Diehl said. “Great faculty members attract great graduate students. If you break that connection by beginning to have less success in attracting graduate students, you will very quickly find you can’t attract top faculty. And the whole institution then is diminished.”

Diehl doesn’t just talk about estate gifts. He and his wife, Mary, have named the university a beneficiary of his retirement plan.

“I love this institution,” he said. “I’ve been here 39 years. I’ve grown up here. I believe in the institution and I want to help it continue to thrive in the future.”

The Diehls’ gift will be split between their great loves on campus, with his portion going to the College of Liberal Arts to support graduate students and hers to the UTeach program in Liberal Arts, where she taught for 11 years. The university’s UTeach programs in Natural Sciences and Liberal Arts help students in those colleges get teaching certification in addition to their four-year degrees.

Diehl said some people have asked him whether he wishes he’d made an outright gift — one that could possibly benefit the college while he’s still working there — instead of a planned gift.

“I don’t look at it that way at all,” he said. “We’re building for the future. That’s what we’re always doing.”

Because life is unpredictable, future gifts are, too. But Diehl says somehow it works.

“Just when you feel like, ‘OK, if we had more resources to devote to this priority,’ it almost always turns out that another planned gift has come to fruition and you use that,” he said. “I really encourage alumni and friends of UT to continue considering planned gifts.”

## Frederick Steiner

**Occupation:** dean, School of Architecture

Textbooks and classroom lectures have their limits when it comes to learning about architecture. The missing piece of the puzzle: experiencing the world’s great architecture firsthand.

“You could see a picture of the Pantheon, but when you walk inside the Pantheon it literally takes your breath away,” said Frederick Steiner, dean of UT’s School of Architecture. “Or Giotto’s chapel in Padua. There’s nothing that can prepare you for the blues in that chapel. Or you can read about Luis Barragán in a book, but seeing Barragán’s work in Mexico City is quite a different experience.”

What does that have to do with estate gifts? A lot. Steiner holds the Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture, which was funded by a planned gift. By combining some of the money from his chair and gifts from the Goldsmith Society, which provides unrestricted money Steiner can use at his discretion, he has been able to support student and faculty travel.

Because many of the school’s estate gifts support faculty and students, the school is able to recruit the best students and faculty, Steiner said.

Philanthropy has also supported technological improvements, which are transforming the profession. For example, people with disabilities that prevent them from drawing by hand are now able to draw by computer.

“Technology is expanding opportunities for a broader spectrum of people to become architects,” Steiner said.

And a wider range of people entering the profession brings valuable new perspectives.

“The way someone in a wheelchair perceives a built environment is different from those of us who don’t,” he said. ✨







## Estate gift helps turn freshmen into scientists

### Innovative Freshman Research Initiative a runaway success

One of UT's big success stories is the Freshman Research Initiative in the College of Natural Sciences. FRI is turning the traditional university research model on its head, placing first-year students in faculty labs where they conduct cutting-edge research usually reserved for upperclassmen and graduate students.

FRI has succeeded on several fronts, including:

- Improving academic performance by almost half a grade point.
- Increasing scientific activities and success by way of publishing papers.
- Improving graduation rates.
- Raising the probability that undergraduates will go on for advanced degrees in medicine, science, engineering, or law.
- Increasing the pathways into scientific careers.

FRI began in 2005 with 43 students in three research areas (known as streams). Today the program includes 850 students (with a waiting list of 200) in 29 research streams. One of those research streams is led by Professor Eric Anslyn. Anslyn, who holds the Norman Hackerman Chair in Chemistry, uses his chair in part to support his research stream. Anslyn's chair was created by an estate gift from David Medley, who studied under Hackerman and received his doctorate in chemistry from UT in 1952.

"There is no way that David could have known back in the '80s when he named Natural Sciences as a beneficiary of his estate that his gift would one day support a faculty member who would one day use the funds from his endowed chair to support the cultivation of young scientists in the lab," said Linda Hicke, dean of the College of Natural Sciences. "This is just one example of a gift that started as a 'notion to help' and a few paragraphs in someone's will and has become the launchpad for a program whose success none of us could have dreamed."

PHOTO: PAUL FINKEL

# New TLS members, fall 2013–summer 2014

The Campaign for Texas beats its \$3 billion goal with an assist from estate donors

The Texas Leadership Society thanks the many generous donors who have made estate gifts in the past year. With these new members, TLS membership tops 1,000. That's more than 1,000 people with the passion and foresight to invest in the future of their university.

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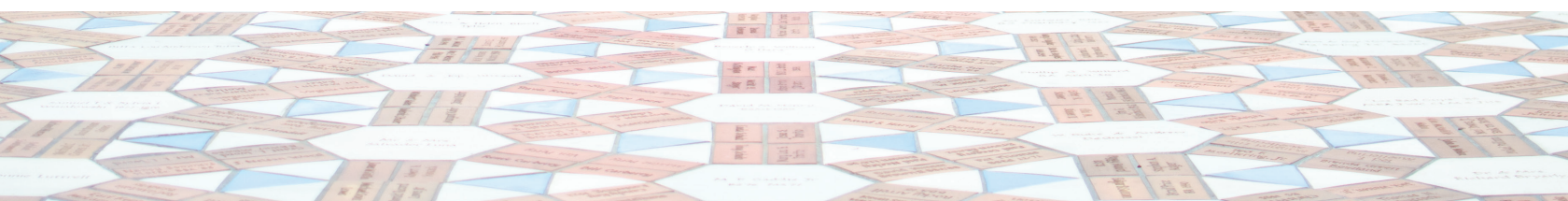
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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the list. If your name (or deceased family member) was omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and notify us so that we may correct the error.*



PHOTO: CALLIE RICHMOND, MARSHA MILLER



## In Memoriam

Mr. Travis W. Bain II  
Mr. Jack S. Blanton  
Ms. Tina Bonci  
Professor Vincent R. DiNino  
Dr. and Mrs. Bryghte D. Godbold  
Mr. John P. Harbin  
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## TEXAS LEADER • WINTER 2015 • INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

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☐ **I have already included UT Austin in my estate plans.**

### **I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

☐ How to make UT Austin the beneficiary of my retirement plan

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# A TEXAS SIZE

## THANK YOU

A world financial crisis was starting to unfold in 2008 just as UT leaders were preparing to announce the \$3 billion Campaign for Texas, the state's most ambitious higher-education fundraising effort to date. But, knowing that Longhorn Nation was persistent, resourceful, and up for any challenge, President Bill Powers said the university would forge ahead as planned.

By the time the campaign ended on Aug. 31, 2014, UT alumni and friends not only reached their goal but surpassed it by \$120 million.

Estate donors played a significant role in the campaign, creating 1,232 new planned gifts worth \$485 million. To see just how grateful we are to all of Longhorn Nation, go to [campaign.utexas.edu](http://campaign.utexas.edu).

### THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEXAS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## Sample will language

Wondering how to include the university in your will?

Here's the language we suggest:

I hereby direct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my residual estate) in cash, securities, or other property to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System for the benefit of The University of Texas at Austin.

This gift shall be for the further benefit of \_\_\_\_\_

[college, school, unit] \_\_\_\_\_  
and shall be used to \_\_\_\_\_ [purpose] \_\_\_\_\_

*As with any decision involving your assets, we urge you to seek the advice of your professional counsel when considering a gift to The University of Texas at Austin.*



**COVER:** Hundreds of thousands of Longhorns of all ages and backgrounds helped make the Campaign for Texas a success. Among them are estate gift donors Melissa Myer, Wolfgang Niedert, Coleman Tharpe, President Bill Powers, Tamera Davis, Patrick Davis, and Joanne Ravel. Cover photo by Wyatt McSpadden.

**TEXAS LEADER** is published each spring and fall for members of the Texas Leadership Society and other alumni and friends of The University of Texas at Austin. To submit story ideas, comments, questions, and address changes, please use the reply form and enclosed envelope, call us toll free at 866-4UTEXAS (866-488-3927), or email [giftplan@www.utexas.edu](mailto:giftplan@www.utexas.edu).

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