

TEXAS★LEADER

PLANNING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Driving American Ingenuity

Gary Thomas
combines his
love of UT and
classic cars

Winter 2020



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

PHOTO: MARSHA MILLER



From the President

Planned gifts reflect passion and purpose

As Texas' flagship university, The University of Texas at Austin has the responsibility — and the spirit — to lead the future. Through a sense of purpose and record of accomplishment, Longhorns reflect the state's limitless potential.

The alumni and faculty featured in this issue are creating remarkable opportunities. We celebrate these generous donors through their stories.

Energy leader Gary Thomas says receiving a scholarship to UT was a pivotal moment in his life. Now he is giving back to his alma mater to support construction of the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building, a multidisciplinary hub for energy innovation offering students hands-on learning opportunities.

Physicist Prem Mahendroo's research provided the seeds for MRI technology. He hopes his gift to create a neuroscience professorship will help UT win another Nobel Prize.

Two other features focus on the lifelong passions of two physicians. Throughout her 99 years, Dr. Lorraine "Casey" Stengl loved nature and found great purpose in preserving it. Her generous land donation, as well as a transformative endowment and estate gift, will strengthen the university's ecology and evolutionary biology research. At Dell Medical School, Dr. Sue Cox, executive vice dean of academics, relished the chance to create an innovative curriculum. She and her husband, Doug Morris, have established gifts to support medical educators as well as medical students.

Without the support of their parents and teachers, Alice and Keith Maxie might not have had the opportunity to

attend college. Their planned gift to UT Elementary School, and the time they spend volunteering there, is influencing how the next generation thinks about college.

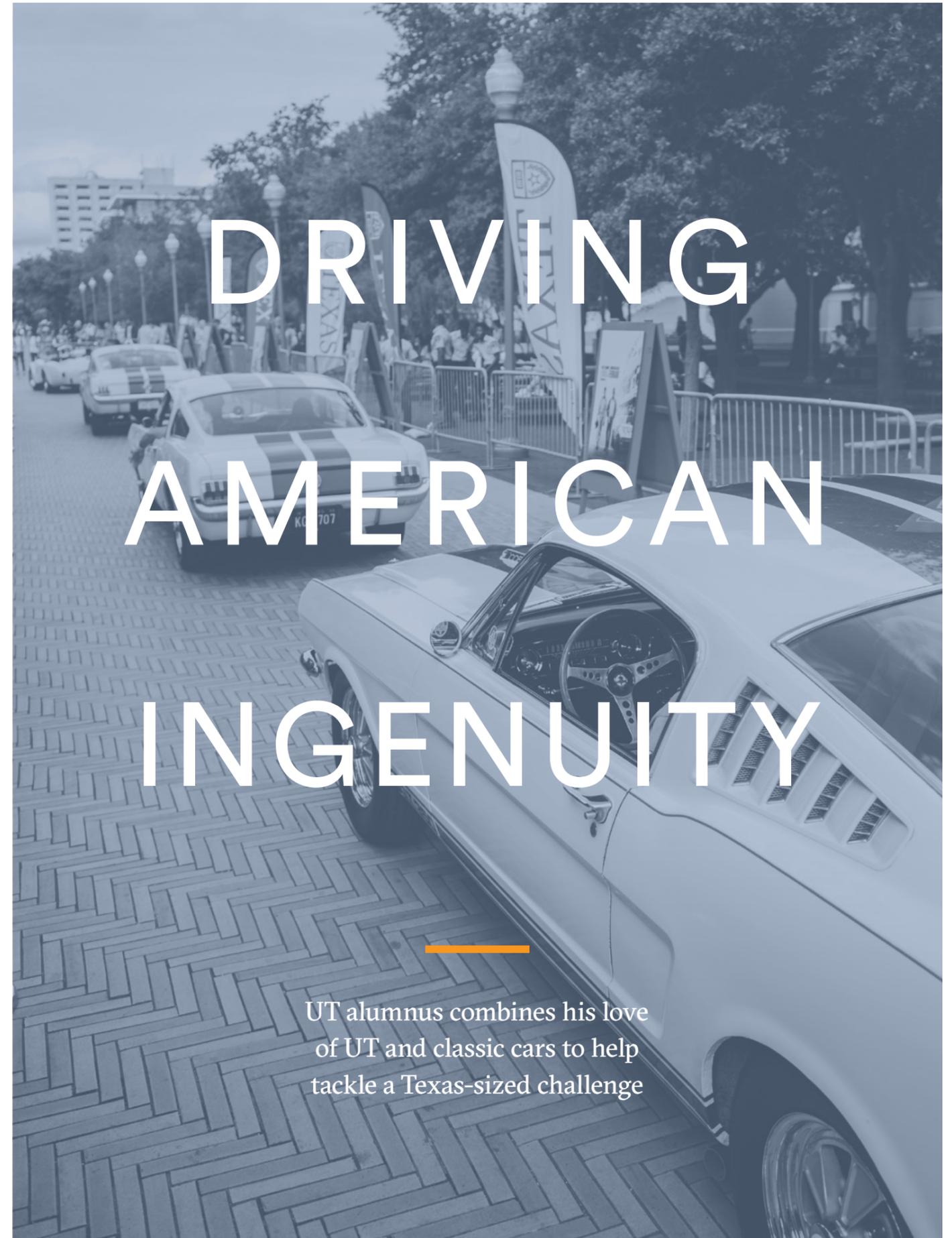
And in the Texas Leader Spotlight, donors Jose Bravo, Carla Blumberg and Lukin Gilliland, Jr. share their favorite memories of the university and how they are helping to change the world through thoughtful estate planning.

Each of these stories is inspiring, as are your leadership and generosity. Thank you for your commitment to making UT a university of the first class.

Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin | @gregfenves
*Ed and Carolyn Hyman Presidential Leadership Chair
Cockrell Family Chair in Engineering #15*

SAVE THE DATE
Texas Leadership Society Luncheon

Friday, April 3, 2020
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
AT&T Conference Center



UT alumnus combines his love of UT and classic cars to help tackle a Texas-sized challenge



Gary Thomas believes in the power of American ingenuity. His career was built on it, his passion is preserving it—and now he’s helping future Longhorns develop it. Thomas knows that ingenuity will be critical to the future of energy, which is why he has made a transformative gift to The University of Texas at Austin to support construction of the new Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building.

▲ Gary Thomas is donating a portion of his car collection to benefit the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building.

Photos: Sloan Breeden, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Becca Wunderlich

Thomas was born in Kermit, a small town in west Texas, to parents who were raised during—and heavily influenced by—the Great Depression. His father dropped out of school in the sixth grade to help support his family. His mother was the valedictorian of her class but didn’t have the resources to attend college. “It was her dream to see her children go to college,” Thomas said. During his senior year, Thomas was called to the principal’s office and informed that he was receiving a scholarship from Unocal to study petroleum engineering at UT. “It was a pivotal moment for me,” Thomas shared.

Thomas’ time at UT prepared him for a successful career, including over 40 years with EOG Resources, Inc. and its predecessor in Houston. “UT professors taught us how to really think through problems and find multiple solutions,” Thomas said. They also taught Thomas how to look at every challenge as an opportunity. Thomas retired from EOG in 2018 as president. During his tenure, EOG grew its production of barrels of oil



equivalent per day by 376% and its reserves by 400%, making it one of the largest crude oil and natural gas companies in the U.S.

Thomas also discovered a family at EOG. “I stay in close contact with my EOG family. I enjoy the people and that’s why I think EOG was so successful—the caliber of people. That is what impresses me about UT too—the people, the leadership and the whole staff of UT Austin.”

Thomas’ career also led him to another passion—collecting Ford cars. While attending a training program, Thomas learned of a red sports car that was being housed in a barn a few miles away. “I bought it two weeks after college graduation.” Thomas currently owns one of the world’s largest Ford collections. “As an engineer, I enjoyed the restoration process. It was a passion from the standpoint of preserving the history of



◀ Thomas’ love of cars began at an early age.

▲ Fulfilling their mother’s dream, all three Thomas children attended UT on scholarship.



▲ Thomas owns one of the world’s largest private collections of Ford vehicles.

◀ Thomas poses with his EOG family after being honored as a 2018 Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Distinguished Alumnus.





▶ Thomas talks to current UT students at an on-campus car show.

“I was so fortunate to have been given a scholarship that encouraged me to go to UT, and it felt like the right thing was to return a portion of my good fortune to the university.”



early performance cars and anticipating what people will want in the future. Learning how to anticipate people’s needs also translated to the oil and gas industry.”

Now Thomas is using his passion to give back to the university that helped him build his career. He is selling a portion of his car collection to support the new Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building. “I was so fortunate to have been given a scholarship that encouraged me to go to UT, and it felt like the right thing was to return a portion of my good fortune to the university,” Thomas said. “The way students are taught today is quite different than when I was in school—it is so critical to have a multidisciplinary program, and the new Energy Engineering Building will facilitate that. This building will be one of the best of its kind in the country and a great tool for education.”

American ingenuity is the fuel that energizes Thomas. With his support, UT and the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building will help fuel the energy needs of the rest of the world and continue to be a leader in energy. ■

The Future of Energy

On October 3, 2019, Gary Thomas and President Gregory L. Fenves broke ground on the new Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building.



The Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building, scheduled to open in 2021, will provide a multidisciplinary hub for energy innovation on the UT campus and offer experiential learning opportunities for students pursuing careers in energy.

“We have seen the Engineering Education and Research Center, opened in 2017, bring our community together like never before — encouraging community members to share ideas and collaborate on research in an open, inviting space that feels like a home away from home for students,” said Dean Sharon Wood of the Cockrell School of Engineering.



▲ Renderings of the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building

“The next phase, thanks to Gary and the many other investors will be the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building. We can now apply our interdisciplinary vision to a new energy hub that will bring some of the world’s best and brightest minds together under one roof in an effort to solve the energy challenges of tomorrow.”

Nurturing the Next Generation

Keith and Alice Maxie say that without the support of their parents and teachers, they might not have gone to college. Now their planned gift to The University of Texas at Austin's UT Elementary School—and the time they spend volunteering with students—is helping to nurture the next generation. “It is so important for people to understand how important it is to finance schools appropriately,” Alice said.

Keith and Alice grew up in Houston and met while attending UT. “Our teachers and counselors recognized that the only way our lives were going to get better was through education,” Alice said. “The teachers identified

the students that they thought had the ability, skills and desire to do well in an era where colleges had only been integrated for a decade.”

Even though Keith and Alice both planned to attend college, their parents had to work multiple jobs to make their dreams a reality. “When I received the Worthing scholarship,” Keith said, “my dad—he cried. It was an answer to my parents' prayers. I look back now at the financial sacrifices both our parents made and am grateful. Their sacrifices influence how we feel about helping other kids realize their dreams.”

After college, Keith was commissioned in the U.S. Army. His career took their family across the country and far from Austin. But no matter where they were, two things were consistent: It was important that they volunteer in their community and that their daughters received a nurturing and well-rounded education that included art and music. “Music and art are just as important as math or science. Learning the arts teaches critical thinking,” Alice said.

While Keith was posted in Virginia, he started receiving calls from students enrolled in UT's College of Natural Sciences who were asking for donations to the school. “It was through those phone calls and the Army ROTC that I was able to reconnect with UT,” Keith said. Alice added, “I am sure college students dread making those calls and asking for money, but it is how we reconnected, and it is important work that they are doing.”



Keith Maxie, College of Natural Sciences '67, and Alice Maxie recently set up a charitable gift annuity which provides income during their lives and will benefit UT Elementary.

Photos: Sloan Breeden

“It is so important for people to understand how important it is to finance schools appropriately.”

After a few years of giving to CNS, UT reached out to Keith and Alice again. This time it was a member of the UT Gift and Estate Planning team. “Laura Dean noticed that we made regular donations to CNS and was curious about our motivation,” Keith shared. Alice continued, “Keith's mom had recently passed away and left us a small inheritance. We decided to give to UT because it is important to us that the university have more faces of color involved in giving. We also wanted people to hear from their peers that you don't have to give millions or hundreds of thousands—every dollar makes a difference.”

Then Dean introduced them to UT Elementary School and Keith and Alice fell in love. “We had the opportunity to tour the school, and

the environment reminded me of what it was like when we were in school. It was nurturing,” Alice said. “Music was so important to my family growing up and I remember my mom talking about how schools never have enough money for music and the arts,” Keith shared. “We knew giving to the music program at UT Elementary was a perfect fit.” They established the Ira and Muriel Maxie Endowment in honor of Keith's parents.

Since becoming involved with UT Elementary School, Keith and Alice continue to expand their support of the Forty Acres. They are members of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement's Advisory Council, and Keith mentors prospective and current minority students, sharing with them the opportunities available on campus. “There are resources available now that weren't even thought about when we were in school,” Alice said. “We have been very pleased and proud of what the university is doing.” ■



The Maxies volunteer at UT Elementary multiple days a week, helping students build confidence in all areas.

Dell Med, Doctors-to-be and Doug



The three loves of Sue Cox, M.D.

The story of Sue Cox is a love story—her love for a medical school, her love for teaching, and her love for her husband, Doug Morris.

“My wedding day to Doug was the happiest day of my life—my second happiest day will be when the first class of Dell Medical School students graduate,” she said with a chuckle.

Cox is an obstetrician/gynecologist, the executive vice dean of academics and chair of the department of medical education at Dell Med. She has been called the key architect of the school, which opened in 2016. But she describes her role in true OB-GYN fashion. “Opening Dell Med was like giving birth, but

the timeline was longer. Each trimester for this baby was three years instead of three months.”

Before Cox came to Austin, she lived across the United States. A self-proclaimed “Navy brat,” she called Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon and the Texas Panhandle her home. She attended West Texas State University on a bowling scholarship and was nationally ranked. Forgoing her plans to be a genetics researcher after she had a change of heart, she earned a spot at Baylor College of Medicine, where she also did a residency in OB-GYN. After completing her maternal fetal medicine fellowship at UT Southwestern, she joined the teaching faculty there.

“I think I was born to be a teacher because I just love it,” said Cox. “As a clerkship director, I was like a mother to 200 medical students each year. They were like sponges, so eager to soak in everything.”

She held many leadership roles at UTSW that prepared her for her big new role in Austin. Cox arrived in 2011 as UT Southwestern’s dean for Austin Graduate Medical Education programs. Soon, state Sen. Kirk Watson and leaders at the UT System asked her to help develop the groundwork for UT Austin’s own medical school. She formed community committees and a task force to draft the curriculum and start the accreditation process, then became one of Dell Med’s first full-time employees in 2014.

Her husband Doug, who met Cox through the matchmaking prowess of a three-year-old neighbor, was by her side through it all. “Sue has the wonderful ability to bring people together for a common goal, and she was virtually the only person in Austin then with the experience and skills to get a new medical school off the ground.”

Cox relished the opportunity to create an innovative curriculum. It is a hallmark of Dell Med. “We use a lot of team teaching and case-based curriculum and offer early exposure to clinical medicine,” said Cox. The curriculum also includes leadership courses, research opportunities, and the opportunity for dual degrees in medicine and business, education, engineering, health care value, fine arts or public health.

“I always say ‘you can’t take it with you,’ and Doug likes to add, ‘but you can leave it behind for others.’ We made a decision to support Dell Med in our estate plans.”

In 2016, a life-changing event prompted Cox and Morris to think about the impact they personally wanted to make in health care. “My mother passed away,” said Cox, “and we began reviewing our wills. I always say ‘you can’t take it with you,’ and Doug likes to add, ‘but you can leave it behind for others.’ We made a decision to support Dell Med in our estate plans.”

Cox and Morris had already made a gift to create a scholarship for Dell Med students, as well as a gift to establish the Susan M. Cox, M.D., Academy of Medical Educators Fund. Their estate gifts will add to this fund and will also be used to create the Susan M. Cox, M.D. and Douglas N. Morris Endowed Chair for Medical Education.

“There are a lot of great teachers in medical schools, but they’re not recognized as they should be,” Cox said. Through the combined impact of the fund and endowed chair, distinguished professors of Dell Med’s Academy of Medical Educators will have financial support for things like research and continuing education. And Cox’s successors will have the resources needed for recruitment, retention, scholarship and innovation. ■

▲ Sue Cox, M.D., and her husband Doug Morris at Dell Medical School

Photo: Sloan Breeden

“Dr. Sue Cox has been my leadership coach and mentor during my time at Dell Medical School. She is an incredible role model. Her encouragement, feedback and advice throughout medical school have helped me to develop a stronger skill set in leadership and patient advocacy that I will continue to use as a physician.”

Emily Niewiarowski · Fourth-year Dell Med student and member of the inaugural class



The Research Bug

As a young boy, Prem Mahendroo loved to fly kites near the Ganges River in his hometown of Haridwar, India. He has a vivid memory of climbing up the side of his house to free one that had been trapped. A fall could have been deadly, but he was determined to grasp what was just beyond reach.

That moment provides a glimpse of Mahendroo's life and work. Throughout his career as a physicist, he reached beyond. He would become a pioneer in nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) research and is admired by Nobel Prize winners in the field.

Eager to see The University of Texas at Austin push the boundaries of discovery through its own MRI-assisted research, he and his wife Indu have established an endowed professorship—and an estate gift to support the professorship for generations to come.



▲
Prem Mahendroo at home in Arlington

Photos:
Vivian Abagiu, Sloan Breedon,
Tara Trujillo-Smith

“My hope is that by supporting a neuroscience professorship, my alma mater will win another Nobel Prize.”

Mahendroo was a Fulbright scholar and worked at the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi. Ready for a new challenge, he pursued a Ph.D. in physics. “I did not choose MIT or Cal Tech. I chose UT,” he said. “My mentor, Dr. Parthasarathy, assured me that I would learn the most with Dr. Wilson Nolle. It was a good decision.”

Nolle was a physics professor at UT and known for his work in acoustics and nuclear magnetic resonance.



▶ Mahendroo's ID cards showcase a legacy of scientific research.

▼ Mahendroo with his daughter Mala and his wife Indu.



“Dr. Nolle and I built the first NMR spectrometer for solids and I used this for my Ph.D. dissertation,” shared Mahendroo. “This work, published in 1960, provided the seeds for the eventual development of MRI technology.”

When Mahendroo graduated, he accepted a position at Texas Christian University where he helped establish a new Ph.D. program in physics. Nolle walked Mahendroo through the steps to build the first magnet for research at TCU. The two continued to conduct research together and their studies were published in physics journals throughout the 1960s.

Also during that time, a fledgling eye care company asked Mahendroo to determine why its solutions were becoming discolored. Using NMR, he was able to identify impurities in the solutions and how to eliminate them. The company was Alcon, which became a global leader in eye care. Mahendroo stayed with Alcon until 1997 and during that time set up an NMR and MRI lab to develop techniques to diagnose glaucoma. Later, as an adjunct professor at UT Southwestern, he shared his expertise in MRI to advise other researchers.

“I’m a research bug,” he said with a chuckle. “I was most happy in the lab.”

Now retired, he is focused on supporting UT faculty who will make new discoveries using MRIs. He sees the most potential in neuroscience research. Dr. Alison Preston, professor of neuroscience and director of the UT Biomedical Imaging Center, is the first to hold the professorship.

“What I have accomplished in my life is due to Dr. Nolle, my father, Sir Raghunath Mahendroo, and encouragement from my wife and family,” he said. “My hope is that by supporting a neuroscience professorship, my alma mater will win another Nobel Prize.” ■

RECRUITING AND RETAINING WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

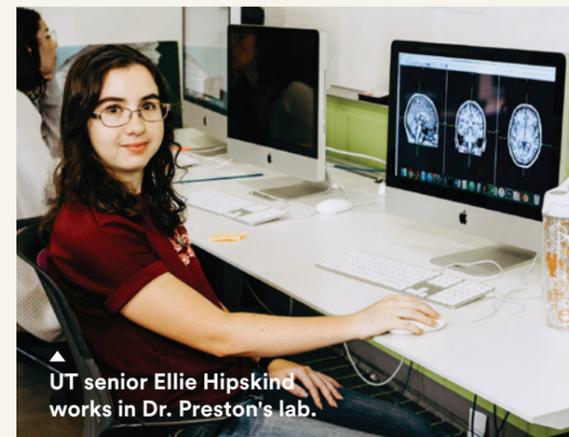
Alison Preston, Ph.D.

*Dr. A. Wilson Nolle and Sir Raghunath P. Mahendroo Professor in Neuroscience
Director, Biomedical Imaging Center*

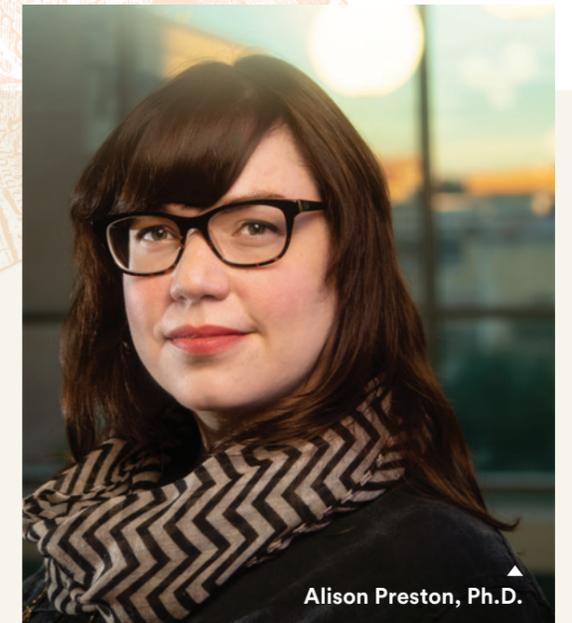
Dr. Alison Preston is immersed in memories. She leads a team of student researchers in studies to understand how humans develop wisdom.

“We are studying how our brains allow us to become wise,” said Preston. “Traditional memory research focuses on remembering snippets of time. We’re studying how prior knowledge influences the way we learn new information.”

An endowed professorship created by alumnus Prem Mahendroo (at left) is supporting her work. Mahendroo is an early pioneer in using MRIs to assist in scientific discovery. Preston’s lab uses MRIs to watch what circuits are activated in the brain as we accrue knowledge. Her work is providing new insight into how we learn at different stages of life.



▶ UT senior Ellie Hipskind works in Dr. Preston's lab.



Alison Preston, Ph.D.

“Most UT undergraduates would be considered children in neurological terms,” she explained. “Their brains are not yet mature, and the mechanisms to become wise aren’t in place until age 24 or 25.”

“Knowing how we learn at different ages will help us in the development of curriculum,” she said. “Work like mine will start to influence the classroom.”

Preston credits Mahendroo for providing her with the freedom to explore new questions. “He’s given me the ability to be more creative, and that’s important to pushing the field forward.”

Mahendroo’s gift is also providing students — including Ellie Hipskind, a senior neuroscience major — with real-world skills.

“I’ve had a lot of hands-on opportunities working in Dr. Preston’s lab,” said Hipskind. “I’m collecting data, designing tools and interacting with participants. I’ve learned that I really enjoy research and it will be great experience as I pursue graduate school.”



In the Pines

Alumna supports her love of nature through gifts to College of Natural Sciences

On 581 acres near Smithville sits The University of Texas at Austin's Stengl Lost Pines Biological Station. This heavenly parcel boasts hardwood trees, meadows, ponds, a unique array of plants and wildlife, and famed relic pines. The loblolly pines here belong to the westernmost grove in the U.S. and are part of the biodiversity that makes Stengl Lost Pines a valuable site for research and education.

◀ A young Lorraine "Casey" Stengl in Austin, 1949
Photos: Courtesy of the College of Natural Sciences

The story of how this Lost Pines treasure landed within the College of Natural Sciences begins with UT alumna Lorraine Stengl, known to many as "Casey." The impact of her generous land donation, as well as a large endowment and transformative estate gift, will cement the university's reputation for having one of the top programs in the country for research in ecology and evolutionary biology.

Stengl was the daughter of a mining engineer and a graduate of Midland High School. A bright, determined student, she became one of the first female graduates of UT's chemistry department in 1939. While working at a hospital lab in Illinois she realized that she "was capable of doing more than lab work." She earned a medical degree from Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, which later became part of Drexel University. In 1950, she set up her practice as a family physician in El Campo, where she cared for patients in a tri-county area for over 20 years.

Stengl and her lifelong partner Lorraine Wyer were looking for a place to relax on the weekends, hunt and "get away from the telephone ringing." They discovered and purchased 208 acres of what Stengl called "majestic forest" in 1952. Stengl and Wyer worked together every weekend, tending to the acreage and exploring. When Stengl retired from her medical practice, she and Wyer spent even more time at their piney retreat.



A Second Calling

Throughout her 99 years Stengl loved all things outdoors, but in the Lost Pines she found a true passion for biodiversity. She supported that passion through gifts to the College of Natural Sciences, establishing a professorship and later an endowed fellowship for graduate students.

In the '80s she attended symposiums at UT's Brackenridge Field Laboratory and formed a friendship with Dr. Larry Gilbert, director of the BFL since 1980 and professor of integrative biology. "Casey was an exceedingly bright and analytical person who was at once humble yet laser-focused on goals as they evolved," said Gilbert. "She did not start out with a mission to develop a university field station, but she came to see that as the most significant use of her property and endowment."

Those BFL visits planted a seed. She shared, "I never wanted to sell the land, and I thought it would be a waste if it was only used for summer retreats. I started thinking maybe this would be a good place for the university to have."

In 1991, Stengl and Wyer donated the original 208 acres to create the Stengl Lost Pines Biological Station. In 2015, Stengl purchased adjacent property and extended the footprint of the station to nearly 600 acres where scientists now study ecological patterns among diverse species and students learn in an outdoor classroom.

But Stengl's generosity reached beyond Lost Pines. Her estate gift of close to \$40 million will support new initiatives in life sciences, biodiversity research, hands-on learning opportunities for students, and more.

◀ Casey Stengl (right) and her partner Lorraine Wyer in the Stengl Lost Pines wildflower meadow.
Photos: Courtesy of the College of Natural Sciences



▶ A UT student explores Stengl Lost Pines Biological Station.

"Now and for many years to come, what Casey Stengl did for UT will be celebrated."

— David Hillis, professor of integrative biology

"Now and for many years to come, what Casey Stengl did for UT will be celebrated," added David Hillis, a professor of integrative biology and director of UT's Biodiversity Center, which oversees the field stations.

Because of the endowment, the college has announced the establishment of a competitive Stengl-Wyer Postdoctoral Scholars program and faculty research grants to support cutting-edge discoveries about plants, animals and natural habitats.

"Dr. Stengl's legacy," said Paul Goldbart, dean of the College of Natural Sciences, "will forevermore support the highest-level research and education into the diversity of life and interactions between living things and their natural environments, in Texas and far beyond." ■



Texas Leader SPOTLIGHT

Meet three University of Texas at Austin alumni who are changing the world through philanthropy and careful estate planning.



Jose Bravo

M.S. Chemical Engineering '81 | Boerne, TX



What is your favorite UT memory?

My first football game at Darrell K Royal – Texas Memorial Stadium exposed me to all that the American college experience encompasses. That game showed me that UT was about unity and family. It also made me understand that sports are about more than the competition—they bring the community together. I thought that was outstanding and complemented the classroom education that I received.

How do you feel UT prepared you for success?

It rounded me into a more complete individual. I learned greater independence, lived by myself and discovered how to make it on a stipend. All those things were a part of my education. I was also introduced to a UT professor who became my mentor. We worked together and he taught me how experienced research engineers set up new programs. It prepared me to do the strategy work around research that I ended up doing my whole career.

Why did you choose to give to UT through your individual retirement account?

When you think about setting up your estate plan, you think about family. UT is family. They were also instrumental to my success. Giving back through my IRA is my way of thanking UT for what they gave me. It is also a comfortable and non-disruptive way for me to support future Longhorns.

What impact do you hope your gift makes?

My gift will support the University Leadership Network, which helps students develop academic and leadership skills. Some ULN students face extra obstacles, like having to work to pay their bills. I want to help these kids focus on their education. I appreciate that ULN students are required to meet on a regular basis and complete internships, so the money I give them is not just charity—they earn it.



Carla Blumberg

B.S. Molecular Biology '83 | St. Paul, MN



What is your favorite UT memory?

By the time I went back to school, I was a little more mature. I think it helped me appreciate the opportunities more. I liked it because it was like going to the movies every day. I got to sit in these auditoriums and listen to professors talk about a variety of subjects. I found gaining scientific literacy to be extremely pleasurable.

How do you feel UT prepared you for success?

I am a lifelong learner, so the amazing library system helped prepare me for success. Anything that I wanted to know or learn about I could find there.

Why did you choose to include UT in your estate plan?

I have a lifelong connection to UT. My granddad's name is on a plaque on the Tower and my granddad and mom were both UT regents. I feel that public higher education is extremely important to our society, now more than ever. The fact that Texans are provided the privilege to attend a public university like UT is really wonderful, and something that we should never lose.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

I currently have the Plan II Honors Program and the McDonald Observatory in my estate plan. Plan II students are taught to think critically and about the larger picture, and the program is important to the university. As for the observatory, I thought that the director when I was in school—Dr. Frank Bash—was a really great guy and did an excellent job running it. He had a strong sense of purpose, did a lot of community outreach, and brought astronomy into classrooms. I want to see that continue.



Lukin Gilliland, Jr.

B.A. Government '79 | San Antonio, TX



What is your favorite UT memory?

One of my favorite memories is being on the football team that won the National Championship in 1970. I grew up going to UT football games and always dreamed of playing for Darrell Royal. It was very exciting for a kid who grew up watching all of the UT greats.

How do you feel UT prepared you for success?

UT gave me so many opportunities. I was able to be a part of one of the greatest sports programs on the planet. I think that sports breed a lot of good things in a person—UT football in particular. It toughens you up, puts you through the paces and prepares you for life. I met some of my best friends and business partners at UT. The College of Liberal Arts taught me how to think critically and that, along with a lot of luck, has allowed me to have some success in life. I really do believe the slogan—what starts here changes the world. UT changed my life.

Why did you choose to give to UT through a charitable remainder unitrust?

Why wouldn't someone want to continue the success of UT and provide other people the same opportunities they had? I decided to set up a charitable remainder unitrust because it allows me to get some income during my lifetime. I think that it is a good investment and will provide great returns for the city and the state. It is also a good tax vehicle to give through. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

What impact do you want your gift to make?

Times and needs change, so whether UT uses my gift to attract the best professors in their fields, for student scholarships, or for something else, it doesn't matter to me. I just want my gift to help advance the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Natural Sciences.

Cover

Photo by Rodolfo Gonzalez

Submissions

TEXAS LEADER is published 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 enclosed envelope, call us at 800-687-4602 or email giftplan@austin.utexas.edu.

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Wondering how to include the university in your estate plans? 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 and/or estate, we urge you to seek the advice of your professional counsel when considering a gift to The University of Texas at Austin.

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