



OPERATION   
SPIRIT  
AND MIND <sup>SM</sup>

The Texas A&M Scholarship Initiative

SPIRIT AND MIND®



# Equip Exceptional Minds to Pursue an Aggie Degree

Invest in Tomorrow's Students by Funding  
Scholarships and Graduate Fellowships Today

Aggies have always had great expectations for themselves and for future Aggies. But today the cost of an education at Texas A&M is a roadblock for many of our finest students. Our \$300 million scholarship and graduate fellowship initiative, *Operation Spirit and Mind*<sup>SM</sup> can counter this. Join us. Let's attack this objective. Let's apply our Aggie energy and industry to make *Operation Spirit and Mind* a success.

*"Texas A&M continues to attract the leaders of tomorrow. They come from many different places and backgrounds; each will enrich our university's culture and ensure Texas A&M remains the great school it has always been. Now is the time to reach out further to these exceptional students with more competitive scholarships and fellowships."*

—Dr. Elsa Murano, Texas A&M University President

A woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark polo shirt and light-colored jeans, is sitting on a dark green sofa in a brick lobby. She is smiling and looking at a clipboard or book she is holding. A green messenger bag is on the sofa next to her. In front of her is a round wooden coffee table with some papers and a small red object on it. To her right is a small wooden side table with a white coffee cup. The background features a brick wall with two large, ornate mirrors: one is a circular mirror with a star in the center, and the other is a sunburst mirror. There are also two wall-mounted lamps with decorative plant accents. In the distance, there are wooden paneling and several framed carvings or plaques on the wall. Stairs with wooden railings lead up from the lobby area.

**“There’s a Spirit can ne’er be told,  
It’s the Spirit of Aggieland.”**



**“Rough!  
Tough!  
Real stuff!  
Texas A&M!”**

Although never proved, Aggie folklore holds that Gen. George S. Patton said,  
“Give me an army of West Point graduates and I’ll win a battle.  
Give me a handful of Texas Aggies and I’ll win a war!”

# DEFEND THE FUTURE of A&M

★ Many Aggies feel that their time in Aggieland was the best of their lives and want future Aggies to enjoy the same rewards. The aspirations of Texas A&M are more ambitious than ever, and the educational opportunities richer and more global. But today's price tag for that unique Aggie experience stops many young scholars in their tracks. Some may get an A&M degree but miss the opportunity for out-of-classroom involvement. Diluting the Aggie experience is something we should not allow. ★ *Operation Spirit and Mind* can change this. Scholarships and graduate fellowships are weapons in the battle against escalating tuition costs that are necessary for Texas A&M to remain a leading public institution. If we marshal our forces behind *Operation Spirit and Mind*, the next generation of Aggies will deliver. They will excel in everything from architecture to zoology, leaving our unique Aggie stamp on the world, and Texas A&M University will continue its history of excellence in education. ★



# A Great University A Great Fundraiser

*Vision 2020*, Texas A&M's strategic plan to become one of the country's top public institutions, demands an enhanced undergraduate and graduate experience.

The 2009 edition of *America's Best Colleges*, published by *U.S. News & World Report*, places Texas A&M among the country's top 25 universities for undergraduate programs and among the top five in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. *Washington Monthly's 2008 College Guide* seconded this opinion, ranking Texas A&M No.1 in its list of universities that make tangible contributions to the public interest. Higher rankings make Texas A&M more attractive to the kind of students and faculty who will magnify our standings even more.

Texas A&M could not have achieved such high rankings without steadfast financial support from our former students and friends. The Texas A&M Foundation has been arming A&M for excellence since 1953, when it was formed by a group of 21 distinguished former students determined to raise funds for Texas A&M University. The results have been superb. Two recent multi-year campaigns were particularly successful. *Capturing the Spirit*, which ran from 1990 to 1996, with a goal of \$500 million, raised \$637 million. The *One Spirit One Vision* campaign surpassed its goal of \$1 billion, ultimately raising \$1.5 billion from 2000 to 2006.



*"Karon and I selected the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, the Cav, and Rudder and Corps 21 scholarships for our endowments because we know the Corps of Cadets are the 'Keepers of the Spirit.' We both believe that 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' Our good friend Mel Glasscock '59 also provided a great reason: 'You give, you live.'"*

**—Harvey Haas '59**

But raising money isn't all we do. We are also guardians, protecting our investments—your investments in A&M—which we wisely diversify. We know how to maximize growth while safeguarding our capital during tough economic times. We consistently surpass market indices and outperform many peer organizations, ranking in the top investment quartile.

A board of seven trustees oversees the Foundation's investment policy, asset allocation, and the general direction of our investments with vision, broad experience and keen business acumen. Historically, the board's members have been attorneys, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, as well as industry leaders (from the manufacturing, petrochemical and energy industries, and from major investment and consulting firms), all of whom are also major contributors.

Most Foundation employees are Aggies—second- and third-generation, in some cases—who have been working here many years. Driven by Aggie spirit ourselves, we bring great energy to our jobs. Our strong ties with Texas A&M leaders and faculty help us match our donors and their interests with the priorities of the university—the heart of our mission.

Our accountability and allegiance to A&M ensure that the funds you give to the Foundation fuel the spirit and mind of our university and help Aggies leave their mark on the world in productive and inventive ways.

## Rising Costs and the Aggie Experience

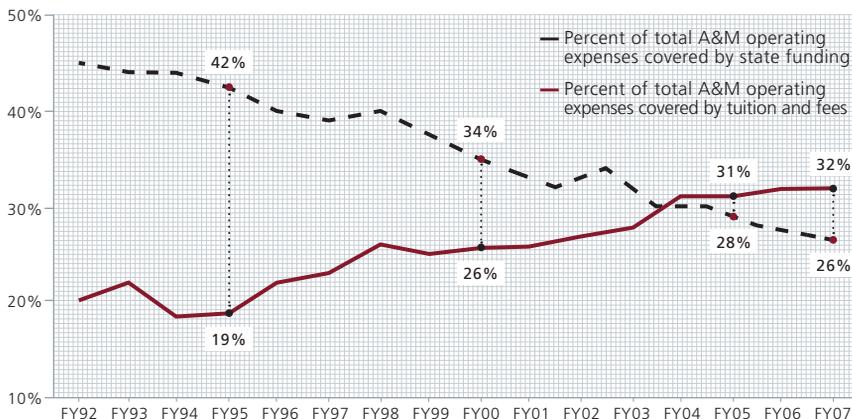
### It's a Different World for Today's Students

As recently as 1992, Texas state appropriations covered 45 percent of A&M's operating budget, but over time, the state has had to shift limited resources to programs unable to generate their own income. By 2007, higher-education appropriations had dropped to only 26 percent of A&M's budget. To cover operating expenses, state-funded universities have to raise funds from one of the few available avenues: tuition.

World-class universities like Texas A&M typically have higher operational costs, but relative to other top-caliber universities, the price of an education at A&M is still recognized as a great value. However, as tuition grows, the number who can afford an Aggie education steadily declines.

Former students may remember paying just \$4 per semester credit hour through the 1980s. Today's students pay significantly more, with in-state tuition alone now exceeding \$160 per hour. Translated into a 15-hour semester in 1980, an in-state undergraduate would have paid \$203 in tuition and mandatory fees; by 2008, that total jumped 19-fold, to \$3,922.

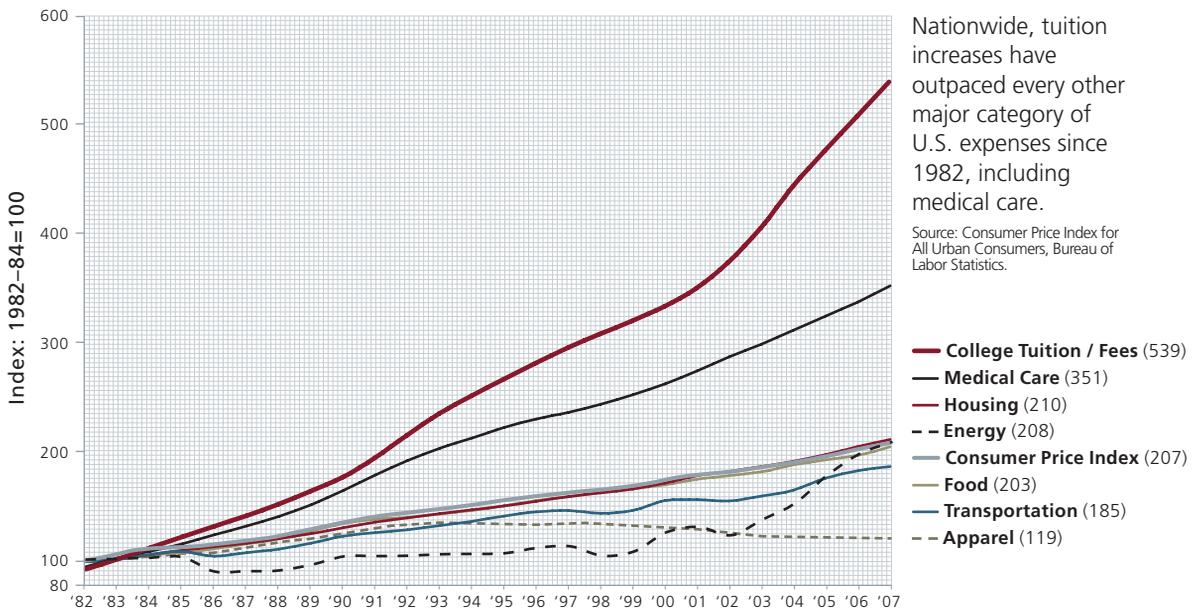
**State Appropriations vs. Texas A&M Tuition**



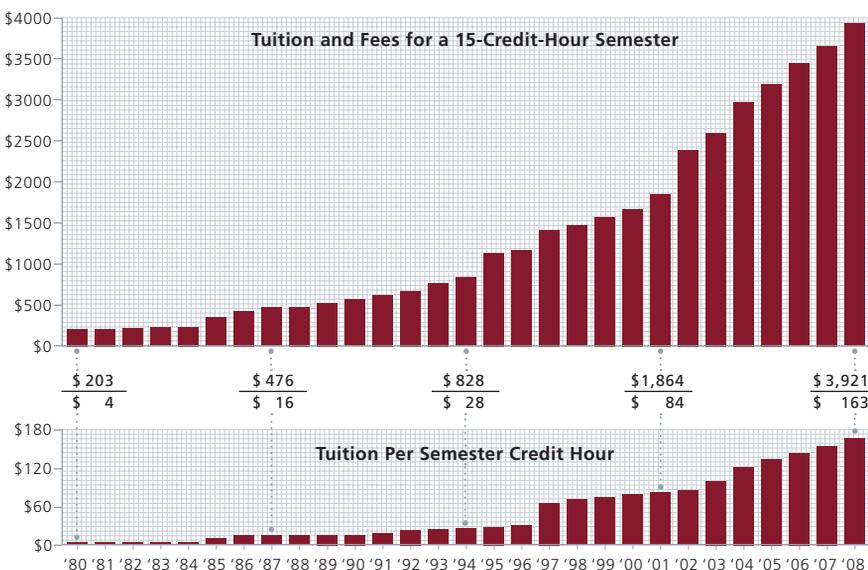
When government funds aren't available, schools rely on tuition for operating income. At Texas A&M, students and their families now shoulder one-third of A&M's budget, a huge jump from 1995, when they handled just one-fifth of the budget.



### Increase in Tuition Nationwide vs. Consumer Price Index Categories



### Tuition and Fees at Texas A&M 1980-2008



Over time the cost of an A&M education has increased greatly. While a \$1,000 scholarship covered a semester of tuition, fees and housing in 1980, that same scholarship only covered the price of textbooks in 2008.

Annual cost* of attending:	
1980	\$ 2,911
2008	\$19,950

\* Includes all costs of attending, such as books, housing and food

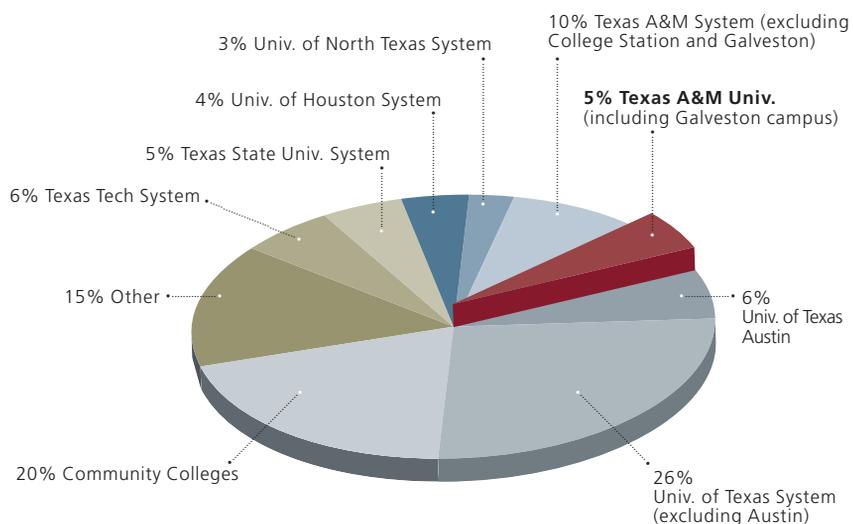
## Our State Is Not Alone

Nationwide, state appropriations for higher education hover at a 25-year low. Most states struggle to maintain current public services; states such as Texas that don't have income tax can experience even greater budget challenges. In absolute dollars, state appropriations to A&M have increased over time, but they have not kept pace with inflation and the costs associated with operating a world-class university.

In recent years, enrollment in Texas public colleges and universities has increased at a rate greater than the national average, making it even more difficult for the state to finance higher education. Texas' higher-education funding seems quite large in absolute dollars, ranking second among all states, but when broken down per capita, its rank drops to 25<sup>th</sup>.

Further complicating the picture are the sheer numbers of institutions competing for funding in Texas. Not only does A&M compete with other four-year universities, it also shares state funds with community colleges.

**Texas Appropriations for Higher Education FY 2008**



Texas A&M is one of many colleges and universities receiving higher-education funding from the state.

Source: Illinois State University Grapevine Project compilation of state appropriations, Bureau of Economic Analysis and U.S. Census Bureau data.



As an outstanding high school senior, Laura Suffridge Green '08 felt strongly that only Texas A&M could give her the combination of academics and spirit she wanted. Although her family scrimped and she borrowed money and worked part time, by her sophomore year Laura didn't know whether she could hang on. An FEA scholarship at the beginning of her junior year made it possible for Laura—the first in her family to attend college—to continue her studies at Texas A&M.

“My FEA scholarship probably made the difference between my staying at A&M and my having to go home.”

—Laura Suffridge Green '08  
Geosciences  
G. Rollie White FEA Scholarship

“Because I graduated debt-free and received funding for graduate school, I’m able to pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering. The applications and potential impact of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) fascinate me, and I hope that the work I do will contribute to the field of MRI and add value to the lives of others.”

—Katie Ramirez '08  
PhD student  
Biomedical Engineering

Graduate Diversity  
Fellowship

Former Kaye &  
Stephen Ross Horn '79  
PES Scholar



### Schools Attended by Students Who Turn Down A&M

University of Texas	20%
Texas Tech	7%
Baylor	6%
Texas Christian University	5%
Other out-of-state institutions	37%
Other four-year Texas institutions	23%
Other two-year Texas institutions	2%

Of the qualified students who decided not to attend Texas A&M, most enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in Texas or out of state. When asked why they turned down A&M, 43 percent cited financial reasons.

Source: Fall 2008 entering freshmen statistics.

## Undergraduate Competition

Many universities, including Stanford, University of Virginia and the Ivy League schools, provide students with scholarships in lieu of loans. At Louisiana State University and the University of Oklahoma, for example, full-ride scholarships are offered to National Merit Scholars or seniors with exceptional SAT scores. At universities across the nation, the best high school seniors often receive full-ride scholarships. To be competitive, we must offer strong scholarship and graduate fellowship support. It's difficult for students to choose Texas A&M if they are offered better financial packages from other schools.

## Graduate-Level "Brain Drain"

As our teaching and research mission depends on having more and higher-quality students at the graduate level, it's critical that we strengthen our graduate research programs. This is one of our university's greatest challenges. Of the 48 Texas students who competed in the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program in 2008, 32 left the state in pursuit of graduate degrees.

Many out-of-state universities offer more funding for fellowships, better-known professors and better research facilities. At her investiture, A&M President Murano declared, "The economic growth of the state depends on students completing their doctorates at Texas universities and then building, maintaining and growing successful businesses and research programs in the state of Texas." For Texas A&M to continue to be a world-class research institution and reverse this "brain drain," we need to provide graduate students with the resources they need and deserve.

## Financial Challenges of Today's Students

Students can no longer pay for a college education simply by working during their college years. This is true for graduate and undergraduate students alike. When student salaries and scholarships don't cover expenses, they feel the pinch. Student loans have become the solution for many, often at a great price. These students utilize federally guaranteed loans such as Stafford loans, or private loans that may have harsher repayment terms; in either case, it's a burden we must lighten. Today, more than half of A&M students take out student loans, and graduate with an average debt load of nearly \$20,000—a fortune for a new graduate just starting his or her professional life.

Universally, students feel the burden of their debts, and these feelings have profound repercussions. In 2000, a study\* by American Student Assistance asked graduates whether their college loans altered their plans for the future. Forty percent said they postponed graduate school because of undergraduate loans, and 25 percent said they changed their career plans. We cannot let our students reach debt levels that prevent them from pursuing their educational dreams.

*"With the help of the Texas A&M Foundation, I have been able to cover all my expenses for school, which has allowed me to focus on academics and serving the students of a university that has given so much to me. It is my sincere desire to carry this torch of giving, inherent within Aggie spirit, in all my future endeavors."*

—Karthik Venkatraj '09, International Studies

Earle A. Shields '41 EOA Scholarship  
Buck Weirus Spirit Award  
Commandant's Corps Scholarship  
Ruth and Paul Cameron Jr. '53 Aggie Leader Scholarship



\*Report on Student Debt and Alumni Giving; American Student Assistance, 2000.

## The Effect of Student Employment on the Aggie Experience

To help pay for their education, thousands of our students must work so many hours during school that they don't have time to participate in the activities and leadership programs that are so much a part of the Aggie experience. In 2005, an Aggie undergraduate survey\* found that of those students who were not currently involved in student organizations, 51 percent were uninvolved because of work commitments. Because 94 percent of all students surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that involvement with student organizations offered long-term career benefits, it seems fair to conclude that if students didn't have to work so many hours to help pay for college expenses, many more would participate in organizations.

One of the goals of *Vision 2020*—improving the undergraduate experience—encourages “use of the strength of Texas A&M University’s student enrichment and traditions to facilitate students’ learning both in and out of the classroom.” Programs like Memorial Student Center committees, student government and the Corps of Cadets are at the heart of an Aggie education. Many former students have attributed part of their career success to the degree of their student involvement.



\*Aggie Returning Program, Student Organization Involvement Study, April 2005.

## Borrowing Affects Future Philanthropy

Today's financially burdened students are also less likely to embrace one of the most valued of Aggie traditions—that of giving back to Texas A&M. According to a nationwide study\*, alumni with monthly student loan payments are two to four times less likely to give back to their alma mater than those without payments.

Many Aggies from past generations feel they owe their education to both the state of Texas and to the former students who gave back to A&M. Most of today's A&M students, however, are paying their own way, taking out loans or getting financial help from their parents. Often the result is an attitude that can inhibit their future generosity toward Texas A&M.

Also, students who don't pursue graduate school because of debt often end up with lower salaries that make giving less practical. If cost patterns continue, forcing students to take out steadily greater loans, the impact on our university could be substantial. But we don't need to accept this. We can combat this scenario with *Operation Spirit and Mind*.

*"I was a recipient of a President's Endowed Scholarship. I know how much it meant to me, and I wanted to extend the benefits of the program to others. I was the first PES scholarship recipient to reciprocate with my own PES scholarships. The generosity of Exxon's gift-matching program made it possible for me and my wife, Gretchen Frei ('84) Jaska, to fund two scholarships."*

**—Matt Jaska '82, Process Technology Manager,  
URS Washington Division, Houston, Texas**  
Former Mr. & Mrs. Harvey L. Richards Sr. PES Scholar

\*Report on Student Debt and Alumni Giving; American Student Assistance, 2000.

*"Scholarships provide the opportunity for students to develop their talents and aspiration without financial burdens. This was particularly important for me, as my college years were incredibly influential in my personal moral and character development. Without my scholarship, I would not have been able to become a physician who focuses on issues of social justice in international settings."*

**—Chi Huang MD '93, Physician and Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Medicine**

Former Mr. & Mrs. Hal N. Carr '43 PES Scholar  
Spent a decade providing free health care to street children in La Paz, Bolivia  
Founder of the Bolivian Street Children Project  
Author of *When Invisible Children Sing*



## The Difference a Scholarship Makes

Scholarships and graduate fellowships lighten financial burdens so students can focus on their studies and start careers without a crushing debt load. While other forms of financial aid require a student to either work during school or repay the aid when they graduate, scholarships and fellowships are gifts that change lives.

Scholarships awarded to out-of-state students actually provide additional assistance through a tuition waiver. If an out-of-state student receives a scholarship of \$1,000 or more per year that is also open to Texas residents, he or she may be awarded in-state tuition rates. So a \$1,000-per-year scholarship can turn into a \$15,430 savings each year. This is because tuition and fees for the 2008–09 fall/spring academic year were \$7,844 for Texas residents versus \$22,274 for out-of-state residents.

For many, a scholarship is the difference between attending Texas A&M or abandoning their dreams. Scholarships and graduate fellowships are also a great vote of confidence: They say, “We believe in you.”

*When Hurricane Rita displaced Jael Spencer '10 and her family from the Texas coast to Nevada, it almost took with it her chance to attend A&M. The Nancy & Brock Nelson scholarship for future math and science teachers meant that, in addition to the scholarship amount, she would pay in-state tuition and could afford to attend A&M. “I am a Texas girl at heart, and there was no doubt in my mind that I would be coming back to Texas after I graduated from high school. I really appreciate the Nelsons for their contribution to my life.”*

**—Jael Spencer '10, Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Nancy & Brock Nelson Scholarship



## Global Study, Global Competency

Scholarships create another important opportunity. The global study experience gives students an advantage in global business and academics. While global concepts can be introduced in the classroom, an international experience gives students the chance to become truly globally competent. Global study creates leaders with a broad understanding of international citizenry.

Texas A&M currently lags behind peer institutions in global study, sending only about 2.6 percent of students abroad annually. President Murano believes that international study needs to be the norm, not the exception, at A&M. In this increasingly interdependent world, it's vital that students gain an international perspective.

In the photos below, A&M students are immersed in cultures on three different continents. Brittany Hardin '09 studied international finance in Europe for three months and was able to visit the European Union Parliament in Strasbourg, France. Ricardo Lozano '07, educational administration PhD student, spent a summer in India studying microfinance. Holly Ward '07 spent a month in Brazil and used satellite imagery to study the geography of the western part of Bahia state.



## Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship Opportunities

Scholarships and graduate fellowships are direct opportunities to fuel the spirits and minds of outstanding students. And funding a scholarship or fellowship is a personal reward in itself. You'll receive the appreciation of your university, your peers and, most important, the Aggies who benefit from your generosity.

When you create a scholarship or graduate fellowship *endowment*, you invest in generations of Aggies. The Texas A&M Foundation manages the endowment to pay for the current student scholarship while simultaneously providing for the long-term growth of the principal. The scholarship amount that the students receive each year is based on the endowment's market value. You can also choose to fund a *now scholarship*, a non-endowed gift that supports a single student and disappears once the scholarship funds are consumed. Take a look at the many scholarship and fellowship opportunities available. Any choice is a great one.



*Scholarship endowment levels are subject to change over time. The endowment amounts listed are current as of November 2008.*

## Named Endowments

Endow your gift and it will go on giving, helping Aggies year after year. Each endowment that you fund with at least \$25,000 will bear your name or the name of someone you wish to honor, such as a family member, mentor or friend. And it can be funded over a period of five years. You can personalize your scholarship to benefit the spirit and mind of students in the way that means the most to you. Speak with one of our Foundation development officers to learn more.

## Impact Mind

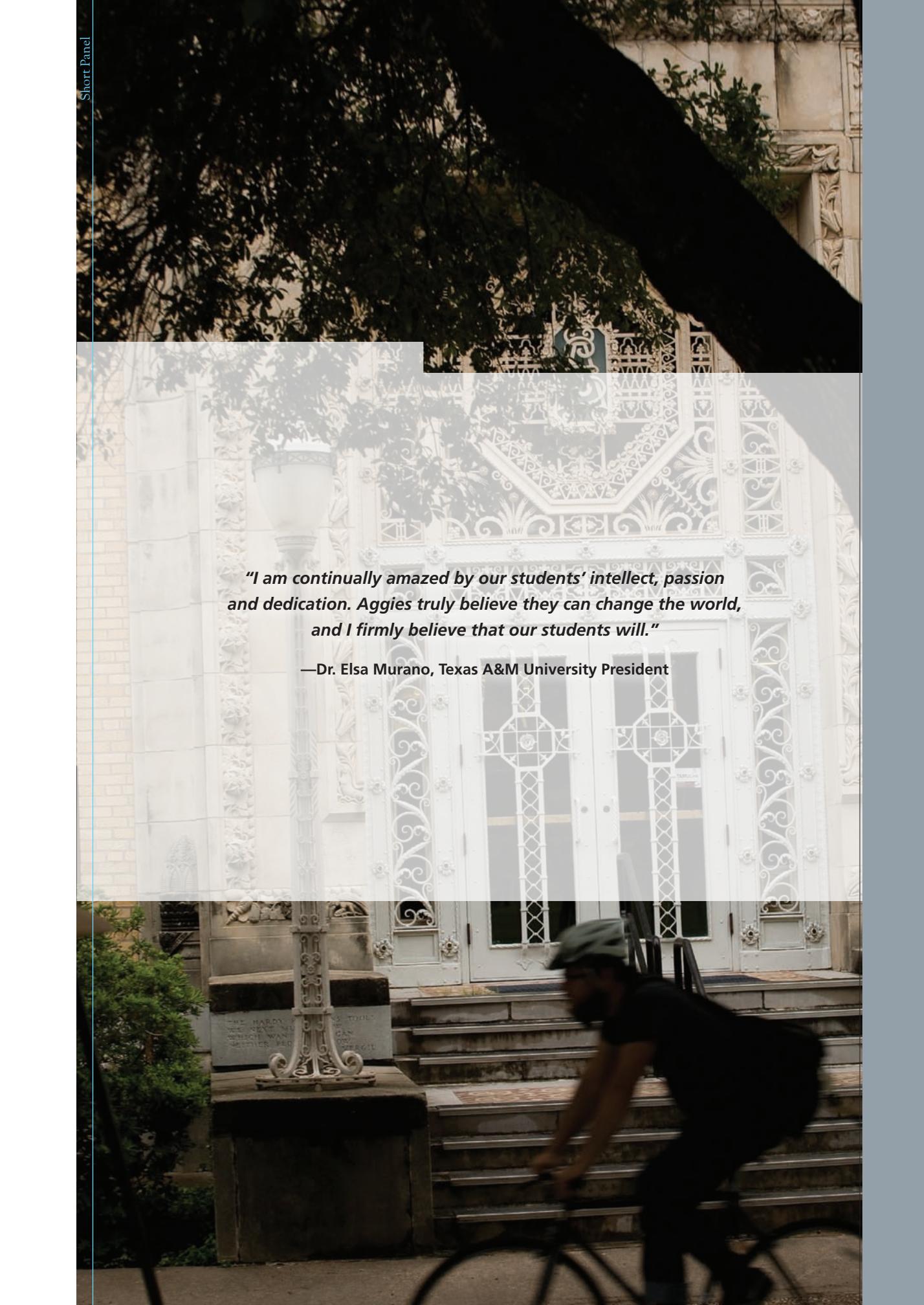
Graduate Fellowships	<p><b>Donor-Named Graduate Fellowships</b> support a graduate student with yearly stipends. The amount of the award depends on the amount of your donation. <i>Most graduate fellowship endowments begin at \$300,000, as that gift amount generates a competitive stipend for a graduate student.</i></p>
Undergraduate Scholarships	<p><b>President's Endowed Scholarship (PES)</b> is the premier scholarship program at Texas A&amp;M. These merit scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic achievement and demonstrated student leadership. Candidates' financial information is not considered in selecting PES recipients. <i>Every four years, your \$100,000 PES endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>Endowed Regents' Scholarships</b> support low-income, first-generation college students. Regent Scholars must live on campus their freshman year and participate in one of Texas A&amp;M's learning communities. <i>Every four years, your \$100,000 Regents' Scholarship endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>Foundation Excellence Awards (FEA)</b> support outstanding students of Texas A&amp;M who contribute to the character of our student body. Recipients have not only demonstrated significant academic achievement and leadership but also have overcome economic, social or educational disadvantages. <i>Choose to fund students forever via an FEA endowment: Every four years, your \$50,000 FEA endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship. Or you can make a one-time impact: Your \$10,000 FEA now scholarship will provide a single student with \$2,500 yearly for four years.</i></p> <p><b>Endowed Opportunity Awards (EOA)</b> have supported highly motivated incoming freshmen with financial challenges for decades. You may have received an opportunity award when you were at Texas A&amp;M. Today, EOA scholarships typically support deserving middle-income students who often miss out on need-based funding. <i>Every four years, your \$25,000 EOA endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>Global Study Scholarships</b> give students the chance to learn firsthand about cultures different from their own. Qualified programs vary in length from a semester to weeklong classes. <i>Every year, your \$25,000 endowment will provide a new recipient with a one-time Global Study Scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>College- and Department-Based Scholarships</b> are offered to deserving students within each college and department. You can customize the scholarship that you create to match your priorities. <i>Every year, your \$25,000 endowment will provide a recipient with a yearly scholarship.</i></p>

## Impact Spirit

<p>Student Program Scholarships</p>	<p><b>Southerland Aggie Leader Awards</b> are awarded annually to outstanding leaders of student organizations. <i>Every year, your \$25,000 endowment will provide a new recipient with a scholarship for a student leader.</i></p> <p><b>College- and Department-Based Spirit Scholarships</b> are offered to outstanding students within each college and department in recognition of their out-of-classroom involvement. You can customize the scholarship that you create to match your priorities. <i>Every year, your \$25,000 endowment will provide a recipient with a yearly college or department spirit scholarship.</i></p>
<p>Corps of Cadets Scholarships support active members in the Corps of Cadets at three different levels.</p>	<p><b>Corps 21</b> is the premier Corps scholarship, offered to top cadets who show outstanding academic and leadership success. <i>Every four years, your \$100,000 endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>General Rudder Corps Scholarships</b> encourage cadets to make a commitment to learning leadership in the Corps of Cadets while maintaining a high level of academic success. <i>Every four years, your \$50,000 endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p> <p><b>Sul Ross Corps Scholarships</b> have been helping cadets with financial support since the early 1980s. <i>Every four years, your \$25,000 endowment will provide a new recipient with a four-year scholarship.</i></p>

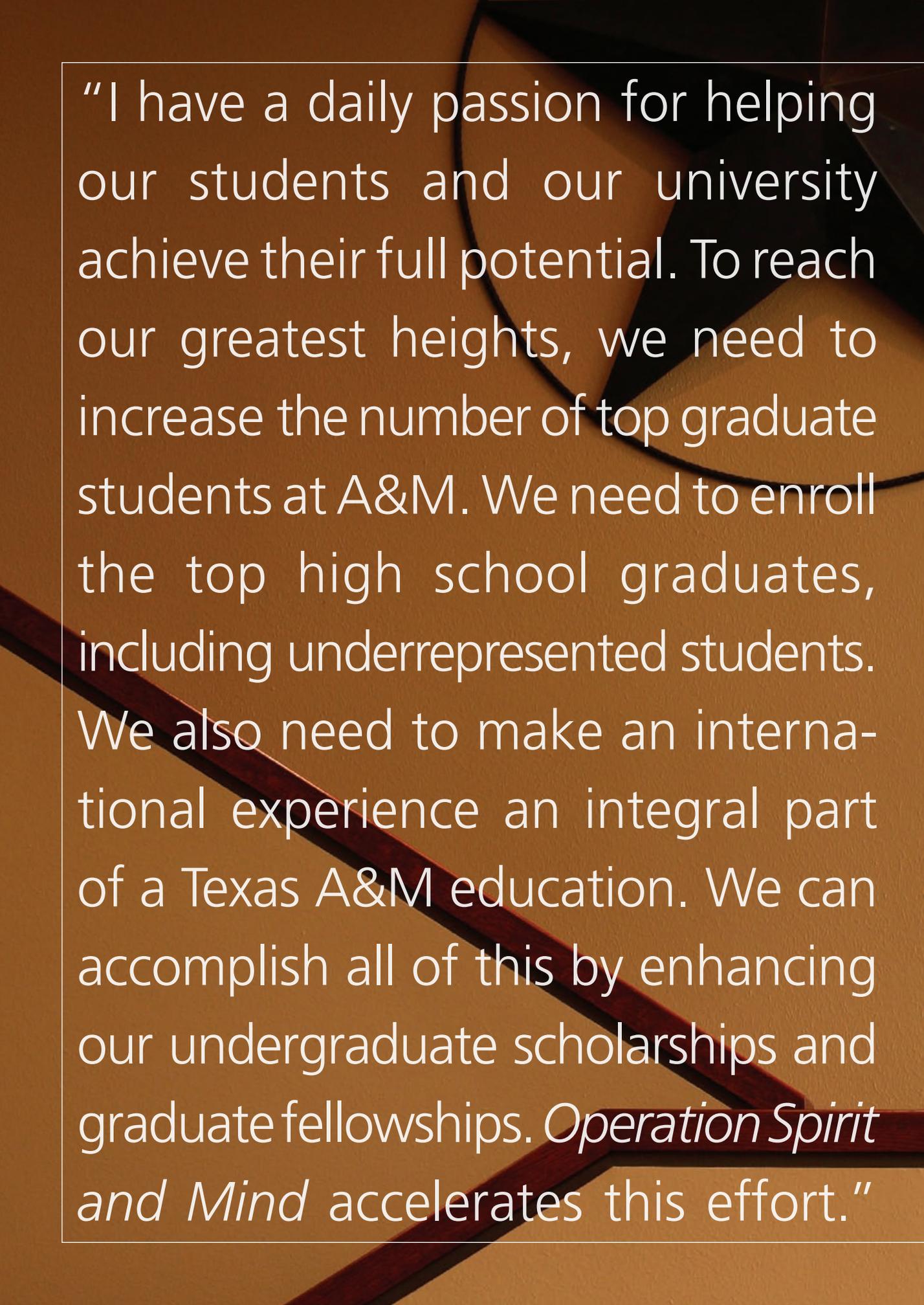
If you want to impact the lives of students but aren't able to fund a named endowment at this time, you can contribute to one of the universitywide scholarship funds that combine donations from many donors to create fully funded scholarships. You can direct the funds to one of five pools: academic merit, talent-in-need, global study, leadership/spirit, or graduate fellowships. It's your choice whether you'd like your gift to add to a scholarship *endowment* or be part of a *new scholarship*.

Student scholarships and graduate fellowships lift the spirit and strengthen the minds of tomorrow's graduates. For more information about how you can support students with scholarships and/or fellowships, visit [giving.tamu.edu](http://giving.tamu.edu) or call the Foundation office at (800) 392-3310.

A photograph of a person riding a bicycle past a grand, ornate white building entrance. The building features intricate carvings and a large tree in the foreground. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

***"I am continually amazed by our students' intellect, passion and dedication. Aggies truly believe they can change the world, and I firmly believe that our students will."***

**—Dr. Elsa Murano, Texas A&M University President**

The background features a warm, brownish-gold color with abstract geometric shapes in dark brown and black, including a large circle and several intersecting lines. A white border frames the text.

“I have a daily passion for helping our students and our university achieve their full potential. To reach our greatest heights, we need to increase the number of top graduate students at A&M. We need to enroll the top high school graduates, including underrepresented students. We also need to make an international experience an integral part of a Texas A&M education. We can accomplish all of this by enhancing our undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships. *Operation Spirit and Mind* accelerates this effort.”



OUR STUDENTS WILL  
CHANGE THE WORLD

THE PRESIDENT'S VISION



Dr. Elsa Murano  
Texas A&M University President



### President Murano's Challenge

I believe that being affordable and accessible always rank alongside offering a high-quality education as prime factors in everything we do at Texas A&M. Unfortunately, like every institution in the country, we are faced with rising costs in energy, construction, faculty retention and overall operations. I am proud that we provide an excellent education at a reasonable price. But while we're addressing cost savings and efficiencies across campus, we must also continue our history of aspiring to greatness.

I believe that we can fulfill an even greater potential than we have ever imagined, and that we can do this without sacrificing the traditions, spirit and values that set us apart from other major universities. I am pleased that the Texas A&M Foundation will be working with me on a new philanthropic initiative to enhance fellowships for graduate students, scholarships for a variety of programs available for undergraduates, and special support for international experiences.

I have challenged the Texas A&M Foundation to grow the number of our graduate student fellowships, which will have a tremendous impact on the overall intellectual capital of the state. As a top research university, Texas A&M has a unique responsibility to investigate

*"Four years of undergraduate work and four more years so far studying veterinary medicine is hard on the pocketbook. For me, financially, every little thing helps. When I get out of school, it will be nice not to have that extra amount of debt."*

—**Abigail Casillo '08, DVM student, Veterinary Medicine**  
C.M. & Jo Ann Cocanougher Scholarship



society's biggest challenges and then translate this knowledge into everyday solutions. Higher education should do more for society. Let's not allow the availability of resources to limit our university.

Also, we need to increase the number of underrepresented students who enroll at Texas A&M, and the number of National Merit and other top students on our campus, by increasing our scholarship funding. As the state's land-grant university, our mission has always been to educate a broad cross section of the population of Texas. We become stronger as a university when we embrace a diversity of ideas, cultures and backgrounds. But we also become stronger as individuals by doing so.

And finally, my goal is to increase participation in global study programs so that 25 percent of our students have an international experience—preferably by studying or working in another country—by the time they graduate. In fact, an international experience needs to become part of the curriculum for every A&M college, similar to how it's currently done in the College of Architecture. We owe it to our students to prepare them for the global economy, in which cross-border interactions are the norm.

A professional portrait of Dr. Ed Davis '67, Texas A&M Foundation President. He is an older man with thinning hair, wearing glasses, a dark brown suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. A small gold ring is visible on his left hand.

Dr. Ed Davis '67  
Texas A&M Foundation President



## IT'S ABOUT GREAT EXPECTATIONS

★ Money issues keep many excellent students from attending Texas A&M or reaching their full capabilities once they're here. Financial challenges can derail students from their education and their future. Texas A&M scholarships and graduate fellowships can open doors and change lives. They are a testament to our strong Aggie values. ★ *Operation Spirit and Mind* is an opportunity for Aggies and friends of Texas A&M to invest in students, and in our future as a university. As president of the Texas A&M Foundation, I have great expectations of *Operation Spirit and Mind*. This initiative will have a powerful effect on Texas A&M, our state and our country. ★

### **I believe this initiative will:**

- Bring the top high school graduates to Texas A&M
- Create a campus environment that mirrors today's global society
- Attract highly qualified graduate students who pursue their studies at Texas A&M, helping professors conduct research that both sets the school apart and helps solve the world's problems
- Permit more students to study abroad so they become more globally aware and spread Aggie values globally as student ambassadors
- Give students the confidence they need to achieve their best
- Enhance our reputation and the value of a Texas A&M degree
- Enable more students to participate in student organizations and fully enjoy the Aggie experience
- Enable more students to join the Corps of Cadets and other student organizations that instill leadership skills
- Inspire more scholarship and graduate fellowship recipients to one day give back to our great university.

### **Help Us Power Spirit and Mind**

While everyone is faced with challenges during economically difficult times, Texas A&M has always recognized the need to help students get an education. Maybe someone gave you a little extra support when you were a student. Or maybe you just feel indebted to A&M for all the knowledge and values it gave you. Perhaps you own or work for a company that's benefited from Aggie know-how and want to support the university that produces such exceptional employees. Whatever has inspired you to think about giving, now is the time to act on your thoughts by funding a scholarship or graduate fellowship. You can drive the spirit and power the minds of tomorrow's graduates, and leave your mark on the world.

## There Are Many Ways You Can Invest in Students

### **Giving Is Easier Than Ever**

Giving back to your university is a meaningful decision, one we're here to help you with. But if you wake up at 1 a.m. with a clear vision of how you want to support students at Texas A&M, you can give online at [giving.tamu.edu](http://giving.tamu.edu). We've made it easy. Our Give Now online service allows you to make payments on an endowment you've already established or contribute to pooled funds. Many donors make their payments online to take advantage of credit-card frequent-user bonuses. Simply put your Foundation account information in the Special Instructions section. If you're making a donation of less than \$25,000—the minimum amount needed to fund a named endowment—online giving might be perfect for you. You can make a gift to a scholarship pool and add your support to that of other donors.

If you'd like to give \$25,000 or more, we recommend that you speak with a Foundation development officer. Give us a call; we'd love to help!

*"My scholarship has helped me to be accountable for my actions and to take pride in my schoolwork and life. I no longer only represent myself, but also those who have invested in me, and it gives me great pride to know that I've made them proud."*

—**Brian Green '08, Project Coordinator, CM Architecture**  
Former Claudius Miller Easley '16 & Inez Wickline Easley  
PES Scholar and Study Abroad Scholar



## Methods of Giving

How you contribute to the Texas A&M Foundation is your choice. Your gift can take any of the following forms:

- A **current gift** can be funded with a check, credit card or electronic fund transfer; with securities\*; or with real estate.\*
- A **matching gift** can be made by employees of many companies that offer matching programs. These can double, triple or quadruple the size of your gift.
- An **after-your-lifetime gift** includes bequests, IRAs, life insurance and living trusts.
- A **dual-benefit gift** provides you with earnings, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. A dual-benefit gift will produce earnings for you during your lifetime, after which your endowment is created to benefit Texas A&M.
- A **retained life estate gift** allows you to give real estate as a current gift yet retain the right to live on your property during your lifetime.
- A **charitable lead trust** provides payments to benefit A&M over a period of years, after which the trust principal is returned to you or to your heirs.

For more information on funding options, please request the Foundation's "Methods of Giving" brochure by contacting us at [giving.tamu.edu](http://giving.tamu.edu) or (800) 392-3310. Our knowledgeable staff will work with you and your advisers to design the best solution for your unique circumstances. Investing in students is a pivotal experience that honors and rewards your Aggie spirit. The Foundation makes the process clear and easy.

\*Real estate and securities can be used to fund current and most planned gifts.

## Corporate and Private Foundation Giving

Many corporations and foundations have invested in the next generation of employees by funding scholarships and graduate fellowships at Texas A&M, often for students planning careers in their industry.

One Texas foundation, Hygeia, recently established the Hygeia Foundation Regents' Scholarship Fund with a generous gift of \$400,000 that will help four first-generation college students achieve their educational goals at Texas A&M in College Station. "Texas A&M has a spirit that is different from any other school," says Lee Richards '54, trustee for the Hygeia Foundation. "The moment you step onto campus you can feel the friendliness."

At the Texas A&M Visualization Laboratory, commonly referred to as the VizLab, students are on the cutting edge of graphic design and animation. Major corporations such as Sony, Industrial Light & Magic, and Pixar invest heavily in this program, offering scholarships and jobs to successful students.

*"My scholarships have been extremely beneficial for me, because my family is low-income. While they give me their love and support, the latter usually means a couple of homemade sandwiches for the road. TAMU's helped me not only fiscally speaking, but has also helped me establish connections that will be very important for my career."*

**—Rodrigo Huerta '08,  
Graduate Student, Visualization Science**

Graduate Diversity Fellowship  
Sony Imagework's IPAX Scholarship  
Pixar Aggies Scholarship





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★ Texas A&M University has triumphed over many challenges. Now we face new challenges—financial challenges that directly affect our students. Through *Operation Spirit and Mind*, we will prevail against this new obstacle. Together we can overcome the financial barriers that hinder many of our students. Together we can ensure the future success of our beloved A&M. ★

When you invest in students, you embody the giving spirit that is so much a part of our Aggie legacy. Support a graduate fellowship or scholarship today. Join *Operation Spirit and Mind*. You will change students' lives—and quite likely yours, too. ★



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Join the initiative to support  
Texas A&M students.  
Visit [giving.tamu.edu](https://giving.tamu.edu) or call the  
Foundation office. Our director  
of development for scholarship  
programs will be happy  
to answer your questions.

(800) 392-3310 or (979) 845-8161  
E-mail: [fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu](mailto:fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu)

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