

# hillviews



## THE BIG PICTURE PAYING IT FORWARD







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COVER STORY

## The Big Picture

Texas State awards over \$370 million in financial assistance each year. Programs like Bobcat Promise and Bobcat Gold help students meet their goals.

**ABOUT:** *Hillviews* is produced three times a year by the University Advancement division. We'd love to hear from you. Send us your comments about the articles in this issue, or send story suggestions. Email [Hillviews@txstate.edu](mailto:Hillviews@txstate.edu); or mail to *Hillviews*, Texas State University, 6C1 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4613. Find the latest and past issues of *Hillviews* online at [hillviews.txstate.edu](http://hillviews.txstate.edu)

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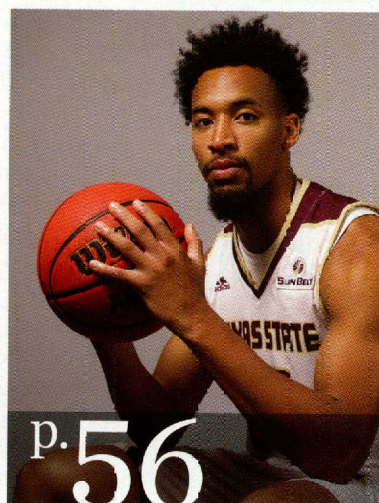




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# hillviews

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Texas State University

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Sandy Pantlik

MANAGING EDITOR  
Julie Cooper

CONTRIBUTORS  
Jacque Crouse | Dan R. Goddard  
Susie Phillips Gonzalez  
Diana Finlay Hendricks | Brian Hudgins  
Kevin Mooney  
Christopher Murr | Edmond Ortiz  
Robyn Ross | Steve Ulfelder  
Mark Wangrin

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Kelly King-Green

DESIGNERS  
Blain Hefner  
Akshatha Puthuraya

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
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# (from the president's desk)

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Dear Friends,

You don't have to look far to see the tremendous impact our donors' generosity has made at Texas State University. It shines on the San Marcos and Round Rock Campuses in our cutting-edge learning and athletic facilities, fuels world-class research and innovation, and bolsters exceptional teaching. Most importantly, the power of giving is evident in the success of our students. We are sending more graduates than ever into the world, prepared to fulfill their dreams and meet the needs of a global workforce.

Philanthropy in the form of student scholarships is integral to the more than \$370 million in financial aid we provide to over 70% of our student population annually. This *Hillviews* issue gives an in-depth look at the many ways Texas State helps students navigate the landscape of funding sources, spanning federal grants, our Bobcat Promise program, student work-study opportunities, and endowed scholarships funded by our donors. You'll also meet Bobcats whose lives were changed because of their ability to access the financial support they needed to complete their education. Our goal at Texas State is to meet our students where they are and help them achieve their educational goals — whether they are returning to complete their degrees or beginning their journeys as freshmen.

For the first time, we have included our annual donor report in *Hillviews*, showing how gifts made in fiscal year 2019 were transformational to Texas State and our students. Endowments ensure we have the resources now and in the future to sustain and grow Texas State's legacy of student achievement. Because of the generosity of so many, during fiscal year 2019 we established 53 new endowments and received endowment gifts totaling more than \$8 million. Endowments are also critical to advancing Texas State toward our goal of becoming recognized as a national research university.

Also featured in this issue are several landmark anniversaries we are celebrating, including 100 years of band music with a countdown of special events leading up to the gala in 2020, the 30th birthday of Mathworks, and the 25th year of the Residential College living and learning experience on the San Marcos Campus.

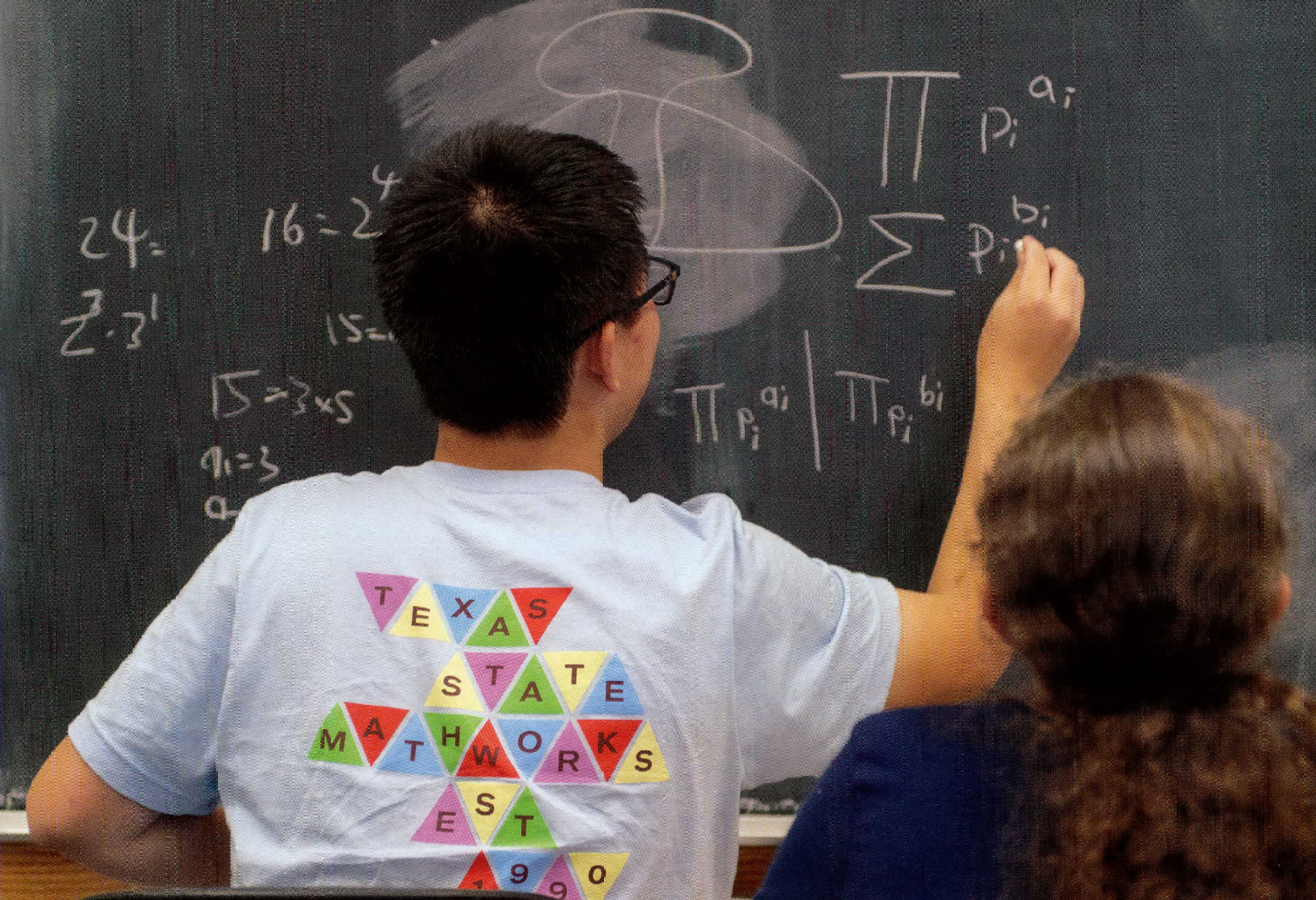
We are immensely grateful for the support we receive from so many friends, alumni, and partners to enrich the lives and futures of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise M. Trauth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise M. Trauth





# Mathworks — by the numbers

30 years +  
8,000 students +  
700 teachers +  
3 pillars =  
amazing success

*By Susie Phillips Gonzalez*

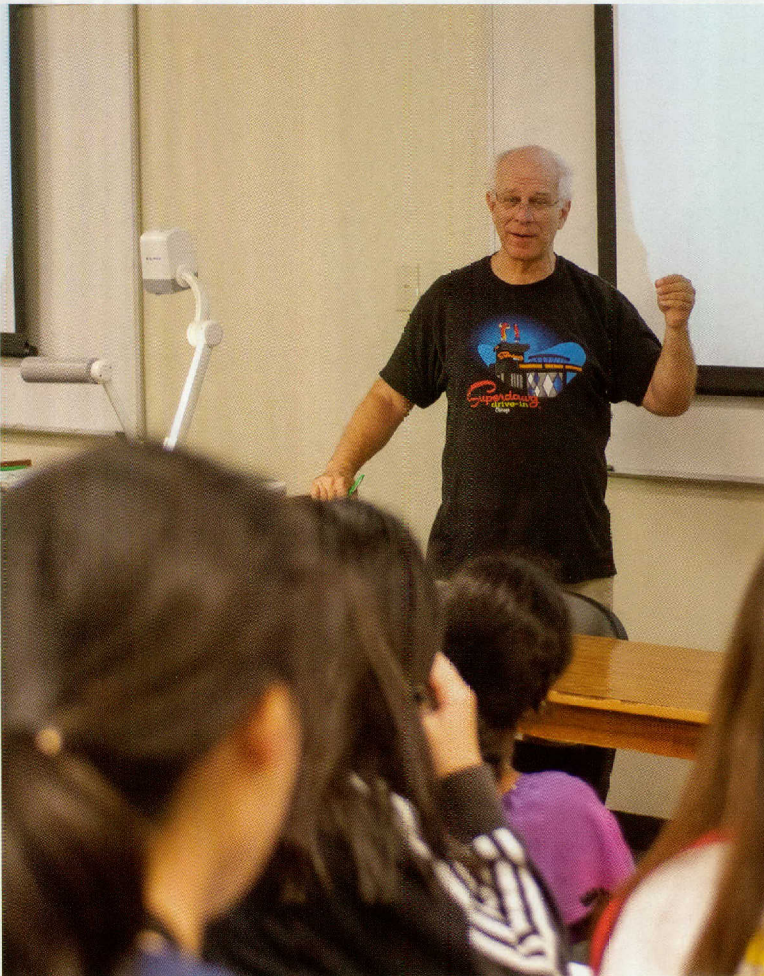
Mathworks, a nationally recognized center of excellence and innovation in mathematics, is celebrating 30 years at Texas State University. Its origins date back half a century to when Dr. Max Warshauer was in high school.

Warshauer, Texas State University System Regents' Professor of Mathematics and director and founder of Texas Mathworks, attended a summer math camp at Ohio State University in the late 1960s. Surrounded by what he describes as talented high school students from across the country, Warshauer learned how to re-discover and prove time-tested theorems in number theory and to "think deeply of simple things." He majored in mathematics at the University of Chicago and earned a doctorate at Louisiana State University.



**“THE PROGRAM IS PREPARING  
A NEW LEADERSHIP IN OUR  
COUNTRY SO WE CAN BE  
COMPETITIVE WITH THE BEST  
STUDENTS IN THE WORLD.”**

**— DR. MAX WARSHAUER**



Higher Education Star Award, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

Warshauer and his colleagues strive to enhance every student's love for mathematics through research-based instruction that keeps learning exciting and relevant. "The program is preparing a new leadership in our country so we can be competitive with the best students in the world," he says.

### **Solving a mathematics education problem**

This summer, Mathworks celebrated its 30th anniversary with panel discussions featuring alumni from each decade, as well as academic colloquia, tubing trips along the San Marcos River, and a barbecue. Among the participants was Dr. Cody Patterson, a former Mathworks student, teacher, and counselor, who joined Texas State as an assistant professor this fall.

Growing up in Weatherford, Patterson had no direct exposure to Texas State and said he was "desperate" to find a program like Mathworks because he had completed every math course his high school offered and wanted to feed his "math obsession."

Patterson, who eventually earned a doctorate at The University of Texas at Austin in addition to bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas A&M University, credits Mathworks professors with helping students grasp concepts and tools needed to solve problems and thus comprehend the major ideas of each course. "I found this to be a powerful experience in shaping my identity as a mathematician, and I try to pass some of this along to the undergraduate students I teach," Patterson says.

When Dr. Will Boney was a high school freshman in Austin, his math teacher told him about Mathworks. "He was a great teacher and got me excited about math," says Boney, who was also looking for something to do over the summer. That first experience eventually led to seven summers with Mathworks — first as student, then

Since arriving at Texas State in 1979, he has taught courses in number theory, calculus, linear algebra, topology, differential equations, and abstract algebra. Warshauer has also advised honors students and doctoral students in mathematics education.

### **Adding up funds to launch Mathworks**

In 1990, he secured a small grant that covered costs for a new summer camp for 12 high schoolers and four Texas State graduate students. Warshauer recalls driving to small towns near San Marcos to recruit campers. In the second year of the program, there was not enough money to pay the faculty. He began the arduous task of seeking grants from national foundations and individual donors to keep the program afloat.

Today, Mathworks has evolved and thrived under the three pillars advanced by Warshauer and initial program faculty members Dr. Terry McCabe and Dr. Don Hazlewood — summer math camps for middle and high school students, curriculum development, and teacher professional development.

During its three decades, the program has reached more than 8,000 students and 700 teachers. It also has earned multiple awards, including the Siemens Founders Award, the Texas



as a counselor. This fall, Boney joined the faculty of the Department of Mathematics as an assistant professor. He comes to Texas State from Harvard University, where he was a Benjamin Peirce Fellow and a National Science Foundation Mathematical Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Araceli Fernandez from San Antonio was one of the Honors Summer Math Camp students in the early and mid-2000s who learned how to solve math problems through discovery and not by memorizing the answers. “That is a skill you need everywhere,” says Fernandez, who earned an M.B.A. at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor after receiving an architectural engineering degree from UT Austin. She is now a manager for an operational improvements company called Partners in Performance. Fernandez says Mathworks also taught her independence, network building, teamwork, and public speaking.

Fernandez says Warshauer was pivotal to her personal growth. “Max was not only a mentor but also a sponsor for me,” she says, noting that her two brothers also attended and benefited from the camp. “I’m one of the students that – without the financial sponsorships he acquired over the years – would have never been able to attend camp. Without his continuous effort and drive, camp would not be as awesome as it is today.”

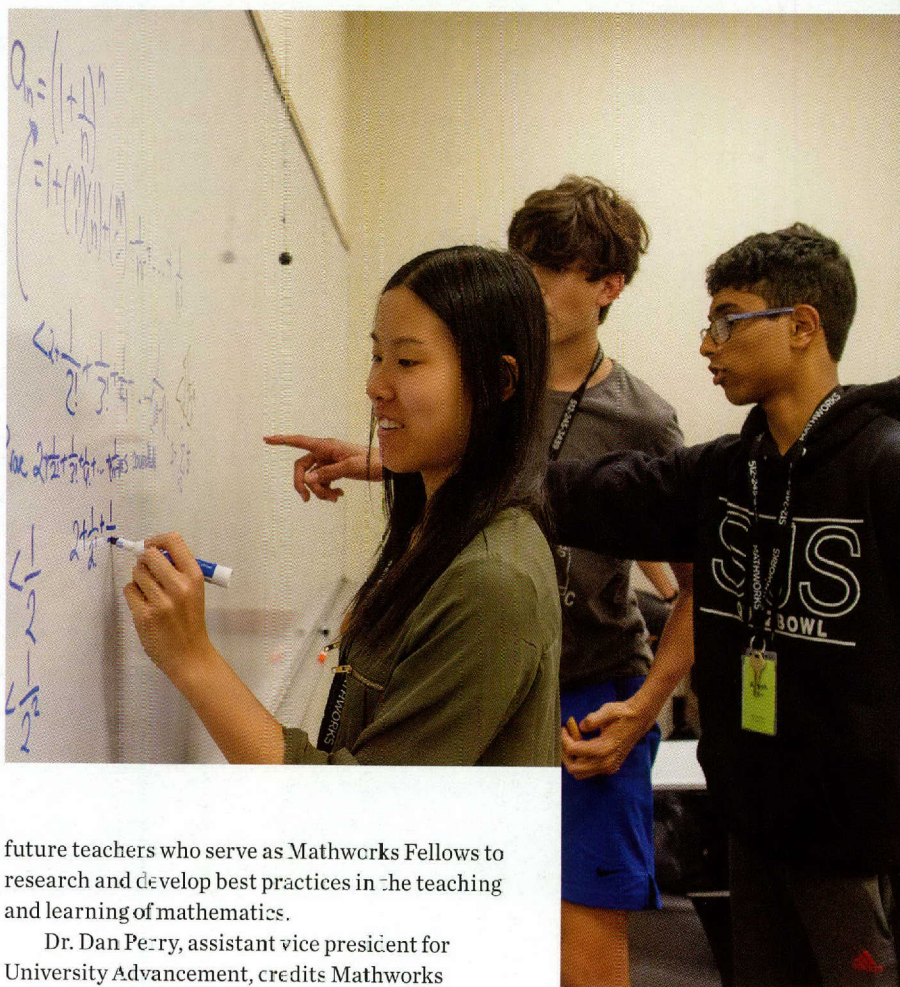
For his dedication, Warshauer has received a number of awards from the university, the state, and national science organizations. “It’s not an individual award, though,” he says. “It’s the team we’ve built.” The team showcases mathematics professors as well as several computer science and engineering faculty members who have guided Mathworks participants on what Warshauer calls “incredible research projects.”

He adds that the backing of Texas State administrators Dr. Christine Hailey, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, and Dr. Susan Morey, chair of the Department of Mathematics, has been vital to the program’s success. Warshauer is especially appreciative of such organizations as the National Science Foundation, the Siemens Foundation, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education for contributing more than \$11 million in grants and donations, as well as for an active and supportive Mathworks Steering Committee.

### Calculating a formula for the future

Where does Mathworks go from here? “We want to sustain the Mathworks legacy for future generations,” Warshauer says. “This program reaches out to students who may not have any money at all. Some students can afford to come, but many could not attend the program without support.”

Perhaps most importantly, the Mathworks programs provide a unique setting for preparing



future teachers who serve as Mathworks Fellows to research and develop best practices in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Dr. Dan Perry, assistant vice president for University Advancement, credits Mathworks with echoing the early mission of Texas State as a teaching college and its progression to a university that offers a doctorate in mathematics education. “Mathworks bridges our legacy as a teacher’s college and our vision to become a national research university,” he says. “Over the last 30 years, Mathworks has grown from a small math camp for talented high school students to a thriving research center.

“Texas State seeks to grow the Mathworks endowment to \$6 million to provide a sustainable source of funding for faculty and graduate students to pioneer new and innovative methods to advance teacher effectiveness in math education,” Perry says.

In his role as a faculty member, Patterson hopes to extend the program’s outreach to students who need academic enrichment in mathematics. He says Mathworks can be a space for learning how students think mathematically and how teachers develop their skills. “Mathworks is an ideal place for doing cutting-edge work at the intersection of research and practice in mathematics education,” Patterson says. “We have the opportunity each summer to work with hundreds of enthusiastic children in a setting where they are not bound to a specific curriculum, pacing calendar, or end-of-course exam.” 🍌





# A man of his words

Cyrus Cassells says that winning a Guggenheim has been satisfying, heartening, and quite emotional.

By Dan R. Goddard

Multicultural and international in spirit, Cyrus Cassells, a self-described “intrepid African-American ambassador working freely and fearlessly in the world,” is the award-winning author of seven books of poetry reflecting his concerns with issues of justice, war, conscience, and the healing of trauma, as well as the restorative power of romantic and erotic love.

An English professor at Texas State University for 21 years, Cassells was awarded a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship in the Creative Arts for Poetry by the John Simon Memorial Foundation.

His first poetry collection, *The Mud Actor*, won the 1981 Poetry Series competition. Other titles include the 1994 Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Soul Makes a Path Through Shouting*, winner of the William Carlos Williams Award, and *Beautiful Signor*, winner of the 1997 Lambda Literary Award. His 2018 volume, *The Gospel According to Wild Indigo*, celebrating South Carolina’s Gullah culture, was nominated for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work—Poetry and the Texas Institute of Letters Helen C. Smith Award for the Best Book of Poetry.

Cassells says winning a Guggenheim has been satisfying, heartening, and quite emotional. “Current and former students have come forward to let me know my impact as a writer and teacher has been a strong and positive one,” Cassells says. His Guggenheim project, “Dragon Shining With All Values Known,” examines poles of faith and politics and includes a sequence, “The Going of the Inland Soul to Sea,” which reflects on the altruistic legacy of the 19th-century priest Father Damien of Molokai to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.





“My project came out of a period when I lost four important people in my life in the course of six weeks,” Cassells says. “This bout of mourning was followed by several inspiring stays over the course of a year in the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert in Abiquiu, New Mexico.” The abbey’s prior — a friend for more than 20 years — gifted Cassells with a hermitage to do his meditation and writing. “My retreat changed my life. Since my desert stays, I’ve been more prolific as a writer than ever,” Cassells says. “I’m writing different kinds of poetry — some of it funny and conversational, some of it raw, experimental, and political, focusing on issues such as police brutality, stand your ground laws, family separation, child abuse, trafficking, and the history of lynching in this country.”

The title poem of his eighth book of poems is a giant abecedarian, or alphabetical, “dragon” that starts with the letter “C” and juxtaposes words to serve as an unusual critique and investigation into the country’s values. “Given the nature of the country’s political emergency and the grave, very real unraveling of our democracy, ‘politics’ cannot be avoided,” Cassells says. “It’s also our job, as writers, to bear witness to the key crises of our era, in whatever fashion we can.”

The Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca has been a major influence on Cassells’ work. “Lorca has been my hero poet since I was teenager,” Cassells says. “My

all-time favorite teacher, Concepción Jorba, introduced me to his poetry and plays in high school.” On leave from Texas State, Cassells traveled to Granada to work on a memoir, *I Found Lorca’s Craige: A Memoir and Pilgrimage to Granada*. Cassells is a noted translator of Catalan poetry, including *Still Life with Children: Selected Poems of Francesc Parcerisas* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press), which appeared in a bilingual Catalan/English edition in March 2019. In August, he traveled to Granada, on the anniversary of Lorca’s murder, to pay homage to the poet in readings and celebrations of his work.

“Travel enables my growth and continued learning, and is often the impetus for my poetry,” Cassells says. “I consider myself a citizen of the world, and my work is quite international in spirit. All in all, I’ve lived a relatively privileged life, but I’ve always been alert, through a keen sense of empathy and a genuine interest in history and humanity, to the suffering of others.” 🌍

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## CYRUS CASSELLS POETRY READING

Monday, March 30, 2020  
 San Marcos Campus  
[alumni.txstate.edu/events](http://alumni.txstate.edu/events)



# TEXAS BAND PROGRAM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



*By Kevin Mooney*

It was Thanksgiving Day, November 1919, when a 16-member, student-led marching band first took to the field during halftime of the football game between Southwest Texas State Normal College and San Marcos Baptist Academy.

This fall, the Bobcat Alumni Marching Band kicks off a yearlong centennial celebration of the Texas State University band program. Celebration events will continue through the year, culminating in May with a gala celebration at the Performing Arts Center.

The band program has grown to include three concert bands — the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and Concert Band — as well as the Bobcat Marching Band and the

Basketball Band. Indeed, a survey of its history over the past 100 years reveals that the significance of the band program to students, the university, and the community is far greater than spirited halftime performances.

Dr. Robert Augustus Tampke became the first faculty director in 1923, leading the band until 1950. In an interview from 1978, Tampke recalled the first time he accompanied the college band down to the old Evans Field for a game and they were stopped at the gate. “There were 10 or 12 of us in the band and [they] wanted us to pay admission.” Under Tampke’s direction, the band almost doubled in size, including 10 “town members” in two years. They were no longer asked to pay admission to perform at halftime.



# 1919

On Thanksgiving Day, the 16-member, student-led marching band first took to the field during halftime of the football game between Southwest Texas State Normal College and San Marcos Baptist Academy.



1919

1920



Dr. Robert Augustus Tampke became the first faculty director in 1923, leading the band until 1950.

1925

1930

The band members received their first uniforms in 1928. Impressively decked out in their maroon and gold with caps and capes, the band felt justified in making an extensive tour of Texas, with performances in Fredericksburg, Llano, San Saba, and other cities. Statewide tours became an annual expression of college pride as well as an effective recruitment endeavor.





By 1939, Tampke could boast of having the largest band in the history of the college with 52 members. The 1940s saw band membership drop with the onset of World War II, but also saw an increase of women members. As annual statewide tours continued after the war, membership increased as did their performances, supplying music for both football and basketball games. They had new uniforms by the end of the decade and were soon under new leadership.



**1945**

**1934**



1935

**1935**



1940

1945

1950



**1939**



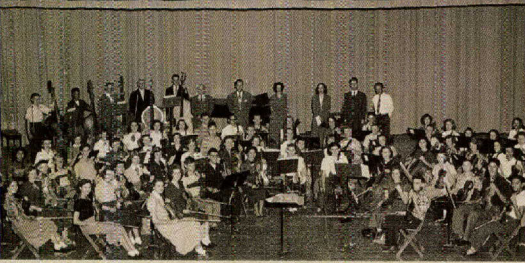
**1941**

The early 1950s saw several directors until Dr. Anton "Tony" Bek was named director in 1954 and continued in the position throughout the decade. Bek expanded the band program significantly by forming a concert band in 1952. By 1955, the bands were recognized as two of the most active musical organizations on the Hill.



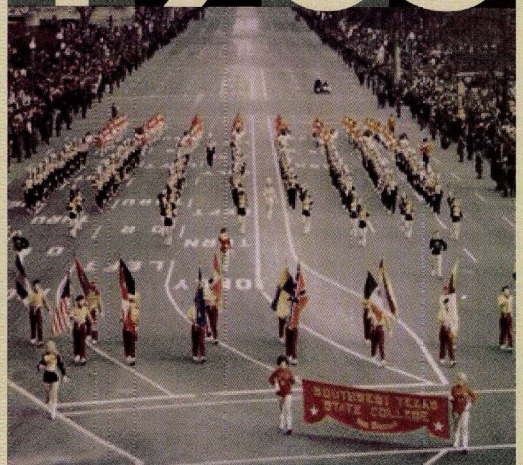
# 1950

FOURTH ANNUAL STRING CLINIC  
 Southwest Texas State Teachers College  
 SAN MARCOS, TEXAS . . . . NOVEMBER, 1950



In 1961, Paul Yoder was commissioned to compose "Go Bcbcats," the college fight song. After participating in President Lyndon B. Johnson's inauguration parade in 1965, the band received unprecedented national attention.

# 1965



1960

1965

# 1961



By the end of the decade, the band organization had slightly more than 40 members — and three years later membership had doubled. Such growth was largely due to four nationwide television appearances: the 1961 presidential inauguration parades in Washington, D.C., two shows in connection with the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, and an NFL halftime show at a Houston Oilers game.



Rehearsal for performance in the Astrodome.

# 1969



In 1975, Dr. James C. Sudduth took over direction of the marching band (and concert band), which garnered national attention with televised performances at the Astrodome.

The band organization continued to grow during the last two decades of the 20th century and into the 21st. John Stansberry, director from 1981 to 2006, significantly expanded membership and performance opportunities, reaching thousands of people each year. During this period, the bands performed at regional and national music conventions, as well as in the 1982 Hollywood film "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."



1970

1975



1980



1990



1995



1978



In 2007, Dr. Caroline Beatty became associate director of bands and director of the Bobcat Marching Band. She was promoted to director of bands in 2011. The following year, Dr. Kyle Glaser became associate director of bands, with Matt Holzner beginning his term as assistant director in 2014.



# MARCH to MAY events

## BAND PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

As the university celebrates this centennial milestone, it's worth noting a few of the more prestigious performances and accomplishments of just two ensembles of the Band program.

### Bobcat Marching Band

**2003** Monterrey, Mexico, first U.S. marching band to perform at a professional soccer game

**2013** Selected video presentation at the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) National Conference

**2014** Performance at Dallas Cowboys game and the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin

**2015** Performance at a Houston Texans game

**2019** Selected video presentation at the CBDNA National Conference

### Wind Symphony

**2008** Kansas City, Missouri, jury-selected performance at the CBDNA Regional Conference

**2011** Seattle, Washington, jury-selected performance at the CBDNA National Conference

**2014** Fayetteville, Arkansas, jury-selected performance at the CBDNA Regional Conference

**2018** Houston, jury-selected performance at the CBDNA Regional Conference

**2019** Tempe, Arizona, jury-selected performance at the CBDNA National Conference

Texas State has kicked off a year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the university's band program. In May, the centennial will culminate in a gala celebration at the Performing Arts Center.

The Wind Symphony and Symphonic Winds are ticketed events with the School of Music Ensemble charge of \$10/\$5 (students). The Concert Band is a non-ticketed event.

**March 4, 2020**  
Evans Auditorium  
Concert Band

**March 5, 2020**  
Evans Auditorium  
Symphonic Winds

**March 6, 2020**  
Evans Auditorium  
Wind Symphony

\*Centennial commission world premiere by Ryan Chase

**April 8, 2020**  
Performing Arts Center  
Wind Symphony Chamber Ensembles

\*Centennial commission world premiere by Michael Ippolito

**April 22, 2020**  
Evans Auditorium  
Concert Band

**April 23, 2020**  
Evans Auditorium  
Symphonic Winds

**April 25, 2020**  
Fiesta Flambeau Parade  
Sab Antonio  
Bobcat Marching Band

**May 2, 2020**  
Performing Arts Center  
Wind Symphony

\*Centennial commission world premiere by Dr. Wayne Oquin

2000

2010

2019



As the band program moves toward its second 100 years, the Bobcat Marching Band is 340 strong, the three concert bands have more than 200 students, and the Basketball Band has 90 students each spring. ✪

*Dr. Kevin Mooney is a senior lecturer, musicology in the School of Music. His current research focuses on jazz history with particular emphasis on the music and career of vocalist Louise Tobin, about whom he is writing a book for Texas A&M University Press.*



FACULTY  
Q & A





# Dr. Kyong Hee Chee studies aging in communities

Dr. Kyong Hee Chee's research interests include aging and the life course and community development. A faculty member of the Department of Sociology, her current research projects concern cognition, generativity, and intergenerational exercise programs. She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and has taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses at Texas State University since 2006. In 2014, she joined Bee Friends, a community of quilters who range in age from mid-50s to the 90s. They meet regularly at the Price Center, an intergenerational community center in San Marcos.

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## **Q:** HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN RESEARCH ON AGING AND COMMUNITY?

**A:** "I was a graduate research assistant at Iowa State University, working on an interdisciplinary applied research project about communities called the Rural Development Initiative. While helping out in data collection, I found out that — among those who participated in the survey — older residents tended to respond fastest and with greater interest.

"I was touched by how deeply the oldest residents cared about their communities. Why do older residents care so much about the future of their communities? Are they thinking about younger people who will live on?"

---

## **Q:** WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH?

**A:** "The importance of social ties. I like to focus on so-called 'weak ties,' although we often think about social relationships with family and friends. We value close ties, which are known to affect health outcomes, and we know less about the benefits of weak ties. Weak ties can be formal relationships such as a membership in a local organization or relationships with acquaintances.

"I would like to emphasize the power of weak ties. Among retirees in Iowa, for example, local social ties and local group memberships were significant factors for predicting community participation. I found that the level of education or home ownership were not as strongly associated with community participation. Also, social interactions within a diverse network seem to help protect cognitive function according to my co-authored article on Chinese older adults.

"One of the projects I am currently working on involves creative group storytelling with people living with dementia. We are looking for 'generativity' [defined as 'the human experience of contributing to and promoting lives of others and oneself' as per my co-authored publication].

"The stories created by people who have memory losses, cognitive declines, reflect the values of generativity. Yet, people living with dementia do not have as many opportunities as they could to contribute to the community."



## **Q:** HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH IMPACTED YOUR TEACHING?

**A:** "With my specialized knowledge in aging and the life course, I can help students realize how important it is to learn about aging and the life course. I can make it real for them.

"My enthusiasm and passion for the field of aging comes up more naturally, I guess. I have a lot of research findings to share with them, not just from my own projects but I can give more examples for different theories, theoretical concepts, and methodologies used in aging research.

"Knowing the ageist bias of people and the stigma of dementia, I try to reduce (the students') ageism and various forms of prejudice, debunking the myths associated with aging and memory-related changes."

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## **Q:** YOUR HOBBY – QUILTING – IS DEFINITELY AN OLD-FASHIONED PASTIME. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

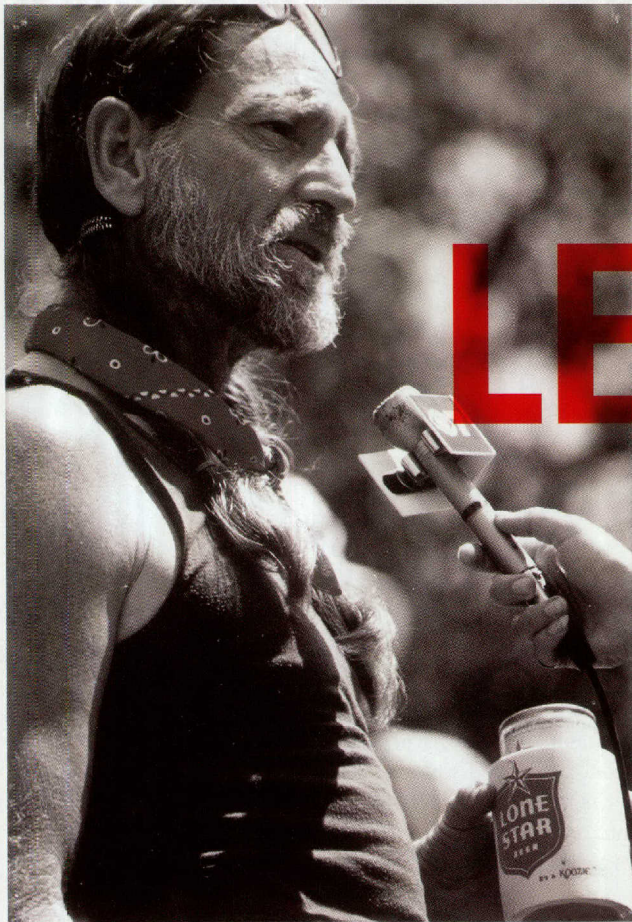
**A:** "I always liked fabrics as a medium. I was an art major as an undergraduate and wanted to try fabric art, although I did ceramics. Like any other crafts including ceramics, quilting is not just for aesthetic value, it's about usability.

"After my grandmother passed away, I happened to see this bundle with different pieces of fabric that she left behind. Her sewing skills were superb. I remember being impressed by some small, fancy fabrics she pieced together. I enjoy using scraps that otherwise would be thrown out — trying to turn them into something nice.

"Another reason I like quilting is that I am with a wonderful community of amazing quilters! I have learned so much from members of Bee Friends. They are so smart; one has to be, to be a good quilter. They are so creative, disciplined, diligent, and resilient." 🌟



# A MUSICAL



# LEGACY



OF

# EPIC

# PROPORTIONS



The Center for  
Texas Music History  
celebrates 20 years



By Diana Finlay Hendricks

**F**the essence of Texas music is storytelling, then the story of Texas music itself would make for a song of truly epic proportions — and one incorporating the distinctive sounds and colors of just about every genre imaginable. To sing and tell it all around a campfire, you'd need a forest full of firewood just to make it to the second verse.

The Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University is celebrating its 20th anniversary this fall. Dr. Jason Mellard, who was named director of the center in 2018, is looking forward to the next 20 years. A historian by profession, Mellard has deep roots in South Texas, along with a doctorate in American studies from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in history from Texas A&M University. He has been teaching at Texas State since 2012 and turned his dissertation into an award-winning book, *Progressive Country: How the 1970s Transformed the Texan in Popular Culture* (University of Texas Press, 2013).

Texas State professors Dr. Gary Hartman and Dr. Gregg Andrews established the center in 1999 within the Department of History. It remains the only comprehensive, university-based center of its kind, providing a full range of programs devoted to the preservation and study of Texas music, from its roots to its present and future.

"Texas really is a special place, historically, culturally, and musically," says Hartman. "There are plenty of states that have rich musical histories and even diverse musical histories, but I don't think there is any place quite like Texas. Texas is so big. It encompasses such a large area and such a diverse population, but it's also literally at the crossroads of Latin America, the Deep South, the American



*Wheatfield at Austin City Limits, 1976, left to right: Bob Russell, Connie Mims, Damian Hevia (drums), and Craig Calvert. (Courtesy of the Wheatfield and St. Elmo's Fire collection, Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, Rice University).*

*Opposite Page: Clockwise from top, Kenneth Threadgill and the Hootenanny Hoots, 1971. Photo by and courtesy of Burton Wilson; ZZ Top at the Armadillo World Headquarters, 1970. Photo by and courtesy of Burton Wilson; Big Mama Thornton at the Vulcan Gas Company, 1969. Photo by and Courtesy of Burton Wilson; Willie Nelson, ca. 1980. Courtesy the Jerry Retzliff Collection, Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.*



**“WE TELL STORIES  
REAL GOOD IN  
TEXAS, AND WE  
ALWAYS HAVE. WE  
STICK OUT. WE TALK  
THE WAY WE TELL  
STORIES, AND THE  
WAY WE SING, AND  
THE WAY WE SET  
THINGS TO MUSIC.  
WE ARE DIFFERENT.  
AND THAT IS THE  
ESSENCE OF TEXAS  
MUSIC. IT’S TELLING  
THE STORY.”**

**— JOE NICK PATOSKI, TEXAS  
CULTURIST AND MUSIC WRITER**

*Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys performing on an ABC radio broadcast, 1946. (Courtesy Johnny CuvIELLO).*



West, and Upper Midwest. Texas is ideally located right in the middle of it all.”

Consequently, Texas music is not so much a separate genre as it is an important part of every musical genre, with roots going into virtually every society around the world.

“The center works to document, preserve, and celebrate the diverse musical heritage of the Lone Star State. From the country jazz of Bob Wills’ western swing to the pioneering electric guitar of T-Bone Walker, from Narciso Martinez’s conjunto accordion to Lydia Mendoza’s heartbreak songs, from Janis Joplin’s wail to DJ Screw’s mixtapes, few states — perhaps no other state — have had the impact that Texas has had in American music,” says Mellard.

Over the past 20 years, the center has collaborated on a variety of projects with organizations such as the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Humanities, PBS, National Public Radio, Humanities Texas, the Texas Music Office in the Office of the Governor, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, and the Texas State Historical Association.

“The most important work we are engaged in today is creating original research, making Texas State the academic presence for this subject



matter. We are developing the next generations of scholars, a network of historians and writers, who will consider Texas State their scholarly home," Mellard says.

He adds that the center is intersecting with Texas State's public history program, working in music heritage tourism, which is a growth field in Texas, The Wittliff Collection's new Texas Music Collection, and the Texas Music Office. Beyond the research and study of Texas music, the center is growing academically on the San Marcos Campus, with a broad range of upper-division, writing-intensive, genre-based history courses, taught by acclaimed musicologists and historians.

Building on the foundation that Hartman and others created, Mellard is reinvigorating the programming. Rather than one large event per year, they are hosting several more intimate events, diversifying and offering more opportunities for students and alums, as well as the Central Texas community to attend.

The Center for Texas Music History has a bright future in its study of the past. As writer Joe Nick Patoski says, "It's telling the story." ✪

## MORE INFORMATION

The Center for Texas Music History produces *The Journal of Texas Music History*, an annual scholarly magazine that is free to anyone requesting a subscription via the center's mailing list.

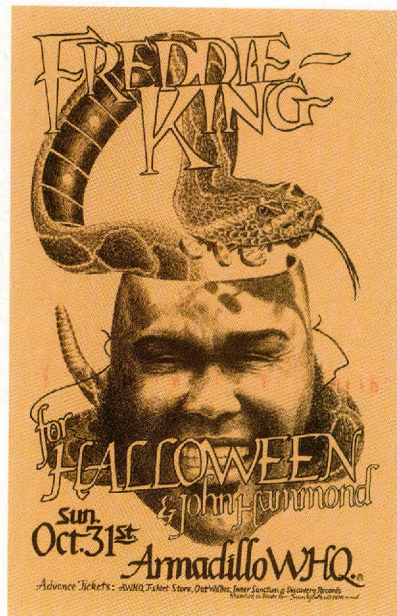
- To request, send an email to [jasonmellard@txstate.edu](mailto:jasonmellard@txstate.edu) or [krb121@txstate.edu](mailto:krb121@txstate.edu).
- Online issues can also be found here: [txstate.edu/ctmh/publications/journal.html](http://txstate.edu/ctmh/publications/journal.html)

In addition to the journal, the center's other publishing projects include the *John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music*, an award-winning book series in partnership with Texas A&M University Press, and *The Handbook of Texas Music*, produced in collaboration with the Texas State Historical Association. For more information about the Dickson book series, visit [txstate.edu/ctmh/publications/dickson-series.html](http://txstate.edu/ctmh/publications/dickson-series.html).



Armadillo World Headquarters poster by Jim Franklin, 1970. (Courtesy The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University).

Armadillo World Headquarters poster by Sam Yeates, 1976. (Courtesy The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University).





# Living-Learning Communities to turn 25

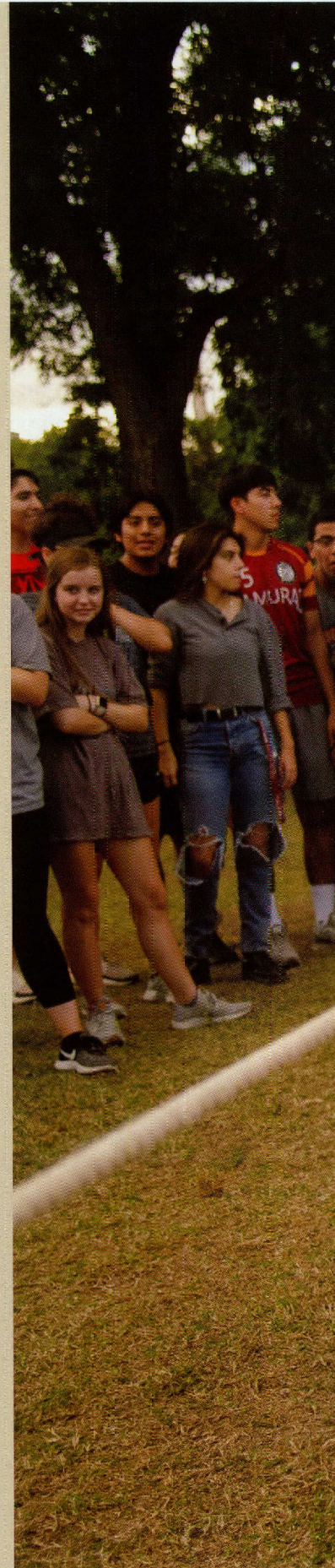
**A pioneering residential program continues to thrive**

*By Steve Ulfelder*

Feeding *Anna Karenina* out loud as a group. An impromptu seminar on balancing your checkbook. Chili cookoffs. Entertaining your professor's dogs, not to mention their young children.

These are all possibilities for first-year students who choose to live in one of 14 Texas State University residential colleges and living-learning communities (LLC). Each year, groups of students live together based on a common academic interest or theme, usually taking at least one course together and participating in outside-the-classroom experiences led by faculty members and staff. This year, the LLCs observe a pair of milestones. First, the pioneering program turns 25. Additionally, one of the LLCs moves up a notch to become a residential college; this fall, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) group has expanded in size and gained a faculty in residence.

Launched in 1995, Texas State's first LLC, the Residential College, was spearheaded by Dr. Gene Bourgeois, now provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, who was inspired by his studies at the University of Cambridge in Great Britain. From these beginnings, the program now offers 14 options. As one of relatively few programs of its type in the nation — Harvard, Rice, and the University of Southern California offer noteworthy LLCs — it is closely studied.

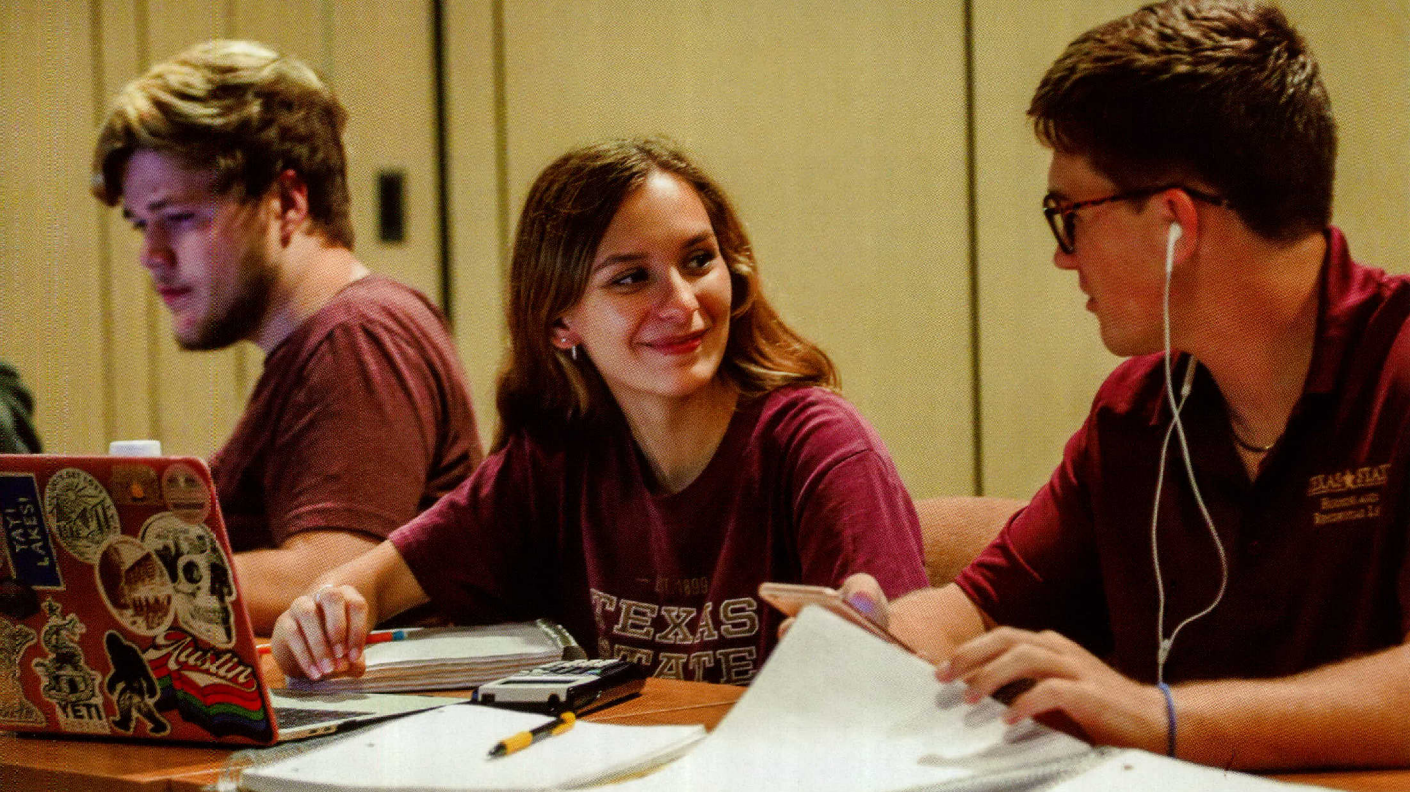






4th Annual LLC Olympics





*Chemistry study group in Gaillardia Hall*

## Informal moments

One important goal in the LLCs “is for the faculty in residence to get to know students outside the classroom,” says Dr. Ted Ingwersen, assistant director, Residential Life and Education. Study sessions, dining hall meals, and small-group dinners all help — but so do the less-structured, lighter moments, such as bumping into a toddler in the hallway or playing fetch with Dr. Kristen Farris’s dog.

Now in her third year in Brogdon and Beretta Hall’s Residential College, Farris — an assistant professor and basic course director for the Fundamentals of Human Communication course — initially was concerned about how her husband, Marc, would handle things. She needn’t have worried. “The students are so respectful and kind,” she says. “They’re really great about interacting. I’ve never had to set boundaries — the students have done that themselves.” Last semester, Marc, who has a master’s in business administration, put together an informal event on personal financial management.

Such informal interaction with faculty can be a godsend for new students. “You need to let the kids see faculty as people, too,” says Ingwersen, who’s been involved with the LLCs since his 1998 arrival at Texas State. “This is an additional person a student can come to.”

Dr. Jeffrey Helgeson, a history professor, agrees. “When freshmen come in, there’s this complete break” with their previous lives, he notes. Faculty in residence serve as “a reminder that there remain, after all, families in the world.” When Helgeson served as faculty in residence from 2010 through 2015, his wife and three children, who at the outset ranged in age from 3 months to 5 years, were part of the package — and a welcome part. “My kids really broke down the distance,” he says, thanks in part to regular family dinners with students, occasional cupcake nights, and other non-academic events.

While LLCs encourage freshmen to live with peers who share academic interests and goals, Dr. Rosanne Proite, director of the Department of Housing and Residential Life, notes there is no lack of diversity in the communities. “These students come from such a wide variety of hometowns, of high schools, of families,” she says. “Part of the program’s appeal is this baked-in diversity.”

## Paying it forward

Dr. Louie Dean Valencia-García, who began this fall as faculty in residence at Laurel Honors House, earned his bachelor’s degree in 2007 at Texas State. He was an Honors College student at a time when there was no faculty in residence there, and in a way, he says, he “spent the last 10 years thinking about how to tie it together a little bit better.” To that end, Valencia-García says, “The main thing I focus on is helping students better prepare for graduation in Honors College. Students don’t always get what that entails [five Honors classes, including their Honors Thesis]. I help them start thinking from day one about, for example, working with faculty. If you have students doing outreach earlier, it eases the way later.”

No program thrives without evolving, and the LLCs never rest on their laurels. For example, there was once an LLC for geography majors, but Proite explains that factors conspired against it. “Students who major in geography tend to fall in love with it through other routes,” she says. In other words, relatively few first-year students land on campus as committed geography majors. For a time, Texas State filled that gap by allowing sophomores in the LLC, but the university’s growth made it impossible to house sophomores on campus. As a result, the geography LLC was phased out.

Evolution is a two-way street. Some of the newer LLCs, housed in Retama Hall, include 45 sound recording technology, acting, and musical theatre majors. The latter’s academic program has exploded in popularity, Proite says, with 15 freshmen accepted each year out of more than 750 applicants.



The STEM Residential College is another example of evolution. Formerly housing 50 students in Sayers Hall, it's now home to 190 in Gaillardia Hall, where Dr. Ivan Ojeda-Ruiz is excited to serve as faculty in residence. He brings an abundance of energy and ideas to the task. "I've always wanted to give back to STEM," Ojeda-Ruiz says. A lecturer in mathematics, he's also studied group theory, human computer interaction, and chemistry. "I find math is related to all science," he adds. "I'm so excited about making that connection, about sharing my experience."

The STEM freshmen will have the opportunity to take Ojeda-Ruiz's Calculus 1 course — and that's not all they'll learn from him. "I want to share my passion for science... the fact that it's not a solo act, you have to share, it's the very nature of the scientific method. I want to help STEM students meet people from other sciences, so they can start building a community as soon as they hit Texas State."

Building community. Sharing one's passion. Working closely with others. These are hallmarks of Texas State's LLCs, which just turned 25 and are not slowing down one bit. "You get a chance to really create a community with the students," Helgeson says. "You get to make a big university feel a lot smaller." ✨

## LLC Choices for 2019 - 20

### Acting

Retama Hall

### Business

Tower Hall

### Future Teachers

Falls Hall

### Journalism and Mass Communication

Tower Hall

### Laurel Honors House

Laurel Hall

### Musical Theatre

Retama Hall

### Pre-Medical/ Pre-Dental

Tower Hall

### Pre-Nursing

Sayers Hall

### Psychology

Tower Hall

### Residential College

Beretta Hall and

Brogdon Hall

### Science Pipeline (for STEM majors)

Retama Hall

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

### Residential College (STEM)

Gaillardia Hall

### Sound Recording Technology

Retama Hall

### Terry Scholars

Laurel Honors House

## On the shoulders of giants: Origins of the LLCs at Texas State

Texas State's residential college and living-learning communities (LLCs) trace their roots to the 13th century.

No, really.

Dr. Gene Bourgeois, now provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, earned his doctorate at the University of Cambridge, whose residential colleges date to 1284. A historian, Bourgeois couldn't help but study the arrangement. "I saw the benefits of closer relationships among students and between students and professors, for the latter group especially those that were informal and allowed students to see faculty as real people outside the classroom and laboratory," he recalls. "The immersion, the opportunity for scholars to interact — these impact points were priceless."

Closer to home, Bourgeois' father had attended Louisiana State University when all of that school's male freshmen were enrolled in the ROTC program — and lived beneath the same roof and dined together, too. "From questions he asked about my own undergraduate years, I could tell he'd enjoyed a lot more bonding with his classmates, a truly different experience." Two of his siblings were part of cohort-based academic programs that reflected the benefits of groups of students taking classes together.

These seeds sprouted in the next decade, when Bourgeois was an assistant history professor at Texas State. Then-President Jerome Supple issued a retention incentive grant with the goal of bringing back more students following their freshman year. In 1993, Bourgeois spearheaded a group that came up with a proposal.

An ambitious proposal, at that. "Extremely ambitious," says Dr. Joanne H. Smith, now vice president for Student Affairs. "They wanted to build new residential halls in the middle of campus. I was director of Residential Life at the time, and I hadn't heard anything about it until I got this call [from Supple]. I went and visited [Bourgeois] and said, 'It would have been nice if you'd talked to me before.'"

Smith laughs at the recollection, adding, "We all thought it was an excellent idea. We took off with it and asked ourselves how, from a feasibility standpoint, we could make this work." The two rolled up their sleeves, dividing the labor as they worked with faculty, staff, and facilities to hone the proposal.

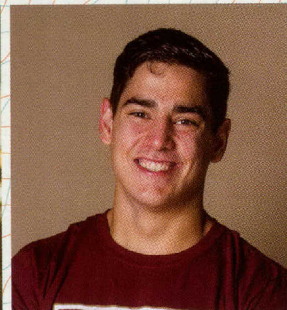
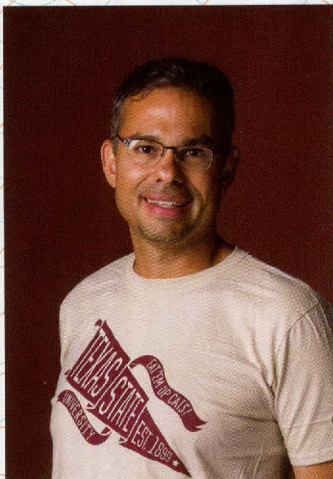
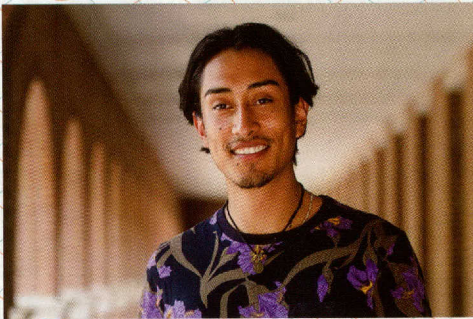
In the fall of 1995, the first residential college opened its doors. It was an immediate success, Bourgeois notes. In more recent years, the retention rate of students who participated in LLCs averaged 80% to 85%, compared with a general rate of 76% to 78%.

— Steve Ulfelder





# THE BIG PICTURE: PAYING IT FORWARD





*By Christopher D. Murr*

**P**aying for college can seem overwhelming for many students and their families. However, holding a college degree is increasingly important in a competitive and global job market. Earning a bachelor's degree leads on average to substantially higher lifetime earnings as well as a richer quality of life.

It is important to remember, though, that students and their parents are not alone in securing the resources needed to defray the cost of a higher education. The university is a partner in this endeavor.

One such partner within the university is the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office. The office's mission is, in part, to advance the access of students to a higher education by providing timely financial assistance and information. The staff of FAS strives to meet their mission and in doing so awards over \$370 million in financial assistance each year to Texas State students. These awards range from need-based funds, such as the federal Pell Grant and the university-funded Texas Public Educational Grant, to self-help options including work-study programs and federal student loans. The office also awards a variety of academic scholarships that are based on academic performance, leadership, extracurricular activities, and other measures of a student's potential for collegiate achievement.

One question often posed to financial aid staff is how to get the most assistance possible. "The best way for students to maximize their financial aid and scholarship opportunities is to make sure they submit their respective aid and scholarship applications on time. Also, it's important to submit documents requested by FAS in a timely manner as some funds are limited," says Dede Gonzales, associate director, Financial Aid and Scholarships.

For financial aid (grants, work-study, and student and parent loans), that means submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after October 1 as possible. For university scholarships, "Those submission deadlines will vary by scholarship," says Gonzales.

In addition to awarding financial aid, FAS works along with other offices across the university to help ensure students' financial wellness. For example, through the Bobcat Gold program "we offer students and their families free financial coaching," says Dr. Byron Kerr, assistant director, Financial Aid and Scholarships. "This helps students develop budgets and plan financially for college expenses."

Other tools and educational resources available at [bobcatgold.txstate.edu](http://bobcatgold.txstate.edu) include iGrad and the Student Loan Debt Tracker, which assist students with effectively managing their finances not only while attending Texas State but well beyond graduation. "By providing students with both financial aid and scholarships, as well as financial education tools and knowledge," says Gonzales, "Texas State University is able to help students access a higher education and do so in a way that facilitates their long-term financial success." 🌟

*Christopher D. Murr, Ph.D., is the director of Financial Aid and Scholarships for Texas State.*



# ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES

## PAYING IT FORWARD: FINANCIAL AID HELPS DEFRAY THE COST OF COLLEGE EDUCATION

By Robyn Ross

The scene in front of Ali Mumbach (B.S. '19) was lifted from a postcard. The sky above the Pacific Ocean blazed with orange light that faded slowly to blue as the sun sank beneath the horizon. A row of fishing boats bobbed in the harbor, and pelicans skimmed the darkening water.

Sitting on the beach in El Jobo, in northwestern Costa Rica, Mumbach closed her eyes. Last night, not far from here, she had held a baby sea turtle in the palm of her hand. The newly hatched turtles are a delicacy for gulls, foxes, and alligators — as well as poachers — so she and the other students in her conservation and marine biology class carried them to the water in a bucket to help them avoid the predators. That morning the class captured and measured sea turtles and stingrays to help their professor with his research. Now that the day was over, everyone else had gone to shower before dinner. Mumbach stayed on the beach, watching the light fade from the sky and marveling that she was there to see it.

Back in Houston, where she'd grown up, money was tight. Mumbach didn't know until her last year of high school that she would have qualified for reduced-price meals at school. She rode the bus or carpooled until her senior year. She worked long hours at a restaurant that summer to save up for a 22-year-old Toyota Camry. At Texas State University, she didn't have to pay tuition or living expenses because she'd been chosen as one of about a dozen Terry Foundation scholars in her class — an opportunity that even included the chance to study abroad.

As the sun set, "I was just sitting in gratitude and awe that I got to be in that place at that moment because I'd been blessed by that scholarship in too many ways to count," she remembers. Mumbach graduated with a degree in applied sociology and a minor in journalism.

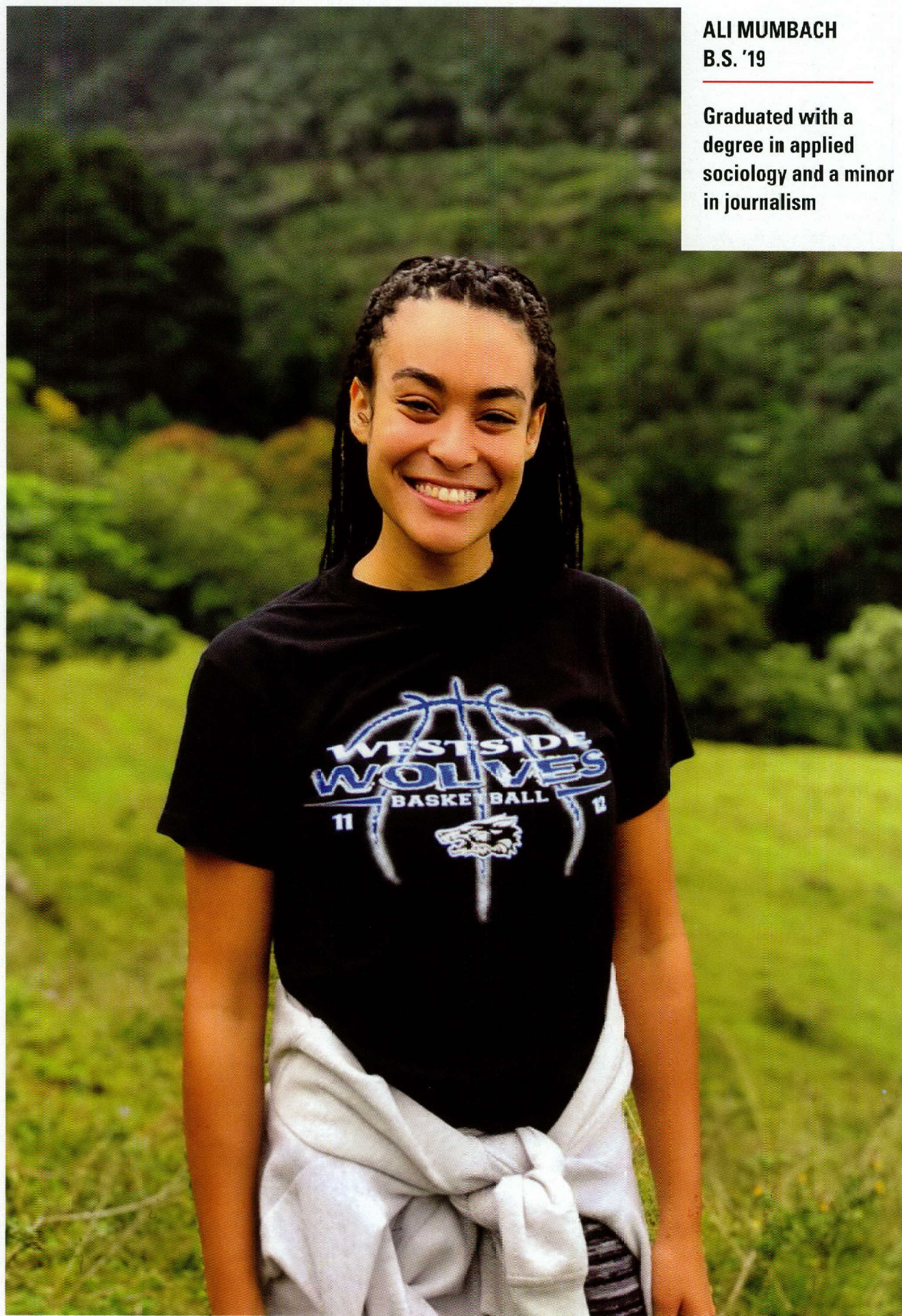
Each year, Texas State awards hundreds of scholarships to students like Mumbach who show academic promise, financial need, or both. The Houston-based Terry Foundation has partnered with Texas State to award scholarships since 2004.



**ALI MUMBACH**  
**B.S. '19**

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**Graduated with a  
degree in applied  
sociology and a minor  
in journalism**





Ali Mumbach, who earned her degree in applied sociology in May, celebrates with her parents, Joe and Lisa Mumbach.

The program provides a four-year full scholarship for between 12 and 17 incoming freshmen each year and covers 65% of the cost of attendance for nine to 12 transfer students. Recipients are selected based on their academic record and leadership accomplishments, as well as financial need. The process includes a holistic review by a committee of Texas State faculty and staff, and an interview with the Terry Foundation.

More than a third of the university's students qualify for federal Pell Grants, which are available only to students who come from low-income families. To keep college affordable, Texas State disburses about \$370 million in financial aid to students each year. Nearly three-quarters of undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, including academic scholarships.

"As students are thinking about coming to college, there's a real concern about how they will finance and pay for their college experience, and what the benefits of that college education will be once they're done," says Dr. Christopher Murr, director of Financial Aid and Scholarships. "So, an important role we have is helping students and their families understand the resources that are available to help defray those educational costs."

One of the largest of those resources is Texas State's Assured Scholarship program, which awards \$1,500 to \$9,500 annually to students who are ranked in the top 30% of their class and post strong scores on the SAT or ACT. Students are automatically considered for these awards when they apply for admission and can even estimate their award by checking the criteria posted online.

For competitive scholarships — awards funded by endowments managed by Financial Aid and Scholarships — students fill out a separate application through the Bobcat Online Scholarship System (BOSS). Many competitive scholarships are specific to individual academic programs, such as the McCoy Scholarship of Excellence for outstanding business students and the Ingram Engineering Technology Scholarship for an academically strong student



To keep college affordable,  
Texas State disburses about

**\$373** million

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Nearly **three-quarters** of  
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scholarships.



in that major. These awards can be combined with Assured Scholarships to cover a significant percentage of Texas State's cost of attendance.

Terry Scholars are automatically accepted to the Honors College, and the freshmen live in the same residence hall. The scholars pitch in on volunteer projects together at places such as the San Marcos Housing Authority's after-school program and local food banks.

New Terry Scholars attend a fall orientation, where they meet their upperclassman counterparts, and they also attend a fall banquet and a spring picnic to bid farewell to the seniors. After graduation, a Terry alumni network helps scholars job-shadow or connect with mentors in their chosen career.

"Once you're a Terry, you are part of the Terry family for life," says Stephanie Lopez, assistant director, Financial Aid and Scholarships, whose office works with the Honors College to manage the Terry program. "While the students are grateful for the funds, it's not just the money — it's a whole support system."

When Mumbach registered for classes her freshman year, she chose a sociology class to fill a general education requirement. The course changed her life — starting the first day, when her professor described sociology as "the unveiling of truth." For Mumbach, that truth wasn't always comforting, as she learned about the structural barriers that keep the American dream out of reach for some populations. "We're taught in the younger years that, 'You work as hard as you can, and then you can be rich,' but that's just not true for a lot of people," she says.

However, Mumbach, who plans to pursue public policy, journalism, or academia after two years of missionary work, says the Terry Scholarship changed all that. "It's making exceptions to the rule that you're going to stay in the socioeconomic status you were born in," she says. "It's giving people access to education who didn't have that access, and we're going to graduate debt free. The Terry Scholarship changed my life. It changes everyone's lives." ❀

## UNDERGRADUATE GRANTS AT TEXAS STATE

### **Pell Grant**

Considered the foundation of a student's financial aid package, to which other forms of aid are added.

**Maximum award for 2019-20:  
\$6,195**

### **The Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)**

Available to eligible students whose parents or guardians died during military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, and who are not eligible for the Pell Grant.

**Maximum award:  
\$5,717**

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**

Awarded to students with exceptional need who are working on their first undergraduate degree.

**Maximum award:  
\$2,000**

### **Texas Public Educational Grant (TPEG)**

Awarded to students based on their financial need.

**Maximum award:  
\$5,500**

### **Texas State Tuition Grant (TSTG)**

Awarded to Texas residents based on their financial need.

**Maximum award:  
\$5,500**

### **Toward Excellence, Access, and Success Grant (TEXAS Grant)**

Established by the Texas Legislature for high school graduates with financial need.

**Maximum award:  
\$5,000**



# TERRY SCHOLARS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Howard and Nancy Terry founded the Terry Scholarship in 1987 with a check for \$1.2 million. Today, the Terry Foundation funds freshman and transfer scholarships at 13 Texas public universities. Texas State joined this group in 2004. The first group of Terry Scholars graduated from Texas State in 2007-08. We reached out to the first class at Texas State and heard from three alumni, two of whom — Katie Luevano and Jennie Darst Syamken — were roommates for four years.

**Katie Luevano (B.A. '08)** is the advancement director at Veritas Academy, a growing classical, Christian, university-model school in southwest Austin. She began working at Veritas as the admissions manager in the fall of 2011 and joined the administration team in the spring of 2016.

A former high school English teacher, Luevano says she tries to teach a class each school year as a way to connect with the students.

“It is hard to put into words all that the Terry Scholarship means to me because it has touched every area of my life. When I initially received my Terry letter, it was the spring of my senior year in high school, during which both of my maternal grandparents, whom I was very close to, passed away, and my mom had just completed treatment for melanoma at MD Anderson. The letter and scholarship

provided me with a renewed hope.”

At Texas State, Luevano roomed with other Terry Scholars who are her best friends to this day. “Experiencing Texas State’s offerings and classes with these girls by my side pushed me to go out on a limb and embrace meaningful challenges, which included studying abroad for my foreign language credits, pursuing courses within the Honors College, working as a student instructor for the Department of History, and completing a double major with a teaching certification by graduation in May 2008,” she says. “My family and I are so grateful for the gift and opportunity I received to attend Texas State as a Terry Scholar. I am who I am today because of the gift and legacy of Howard and Nancy Terry.”

Katie Luevano, Bonnie Cole Southerland, and Jennie Darst Syamken (all Terry Scholars and roommates).





**Jennie Darst Syamken (B.A. '08)** earned her degree in history with a minor in geography. This year she will begin a new chapter as a fourth/fifth grade teacher in a private school in the Corpus Christi area.

For eight years Syamken was an academic advisor for Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, where she earned a master's in history in 2018.

“The Terry Scholarship gave me an opportunity that I never thought was possible. I graduated from Texas State University debt free and had the chance to move on to my master's degree without any financial worries. I am forever grateful for this amazing organization and for their continued support and encouragement towards my future,” she says.

**Dr. Mary K. Twis (B.S.W. '07)** is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at Texas Christian University. “I teach at the undergraduate and graduate level. I also conduct research related to human trafficking prevention and intervention and provide program evaluation and consultation services for various nonprofits in North Texas,” Twis says. She plans to continue pursuing tenure at TCU.

After graduating from Texas State in 2007, she took a year off to gain work experience before obtaining a graduate degree. Twis earned a master of social work degree from UT Arlington and worked for five years as a social worker. She graduated in May 2018 with a doctorate in social work.

Asked how the Terry Scholarship changed her life, Twis says, “I am not sure if I would have been able to pursue graduate education if I carried a large student loan burden from my undergraduate education. Without graduate degrees, I would not have the career I have, and I would not be able to do what I love to do. Moreover, because I finished my undergraduate degree a year early, the Terry Foundation allowed me to transfer some of my scholarship funding to my master's degree, which also greatly reduced my financial burden in young adulthood.

“Who can say that they finished three degrees with limited savings and without any student debt? This is my story because the Terry Foundation saw something in me and chose to invest in my future, and for that I am forever grateful.

“The career I have now has allowed me to save for my children's education and future. The investment that the Terry Foundation made in me has made a difference not just to me, but to future generations.” ✨



**Dr. Mary K. Twis**

## THE TERRY FOUNDATION

The program provides a

**FOUR-YEAR**

**FULL SCHOLARSHIP**

for between

**12 AND 17**

incoming freshmen  
each year

Covers

**65%**

of the cost of  
attendance for

**6 TO 9**

transfer students



## SCHOLARSHIP SNAPSHOTS



### Holly and Kayla Streber

#### President's Honor Scholarship Ingram Engineering Scholarship

The identical twins from Austin are both junior industrial engineering majors, play varsity soccer for the conference-champion women's soccer team, and plan to pursue careers in logistics and supply chain management. Both received the President's Honor Scholarship, Ingram Engineering Scholarship, and a scholarship through the Houston-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program. The awards meant the Strebers didn't have to take out student loans or work during the school year — which would have been difficult to manage around playing soccer. “Our parents aren't really able to help pay for college,” Holly says, “so the scholarships took a big burden off our shoulders.”

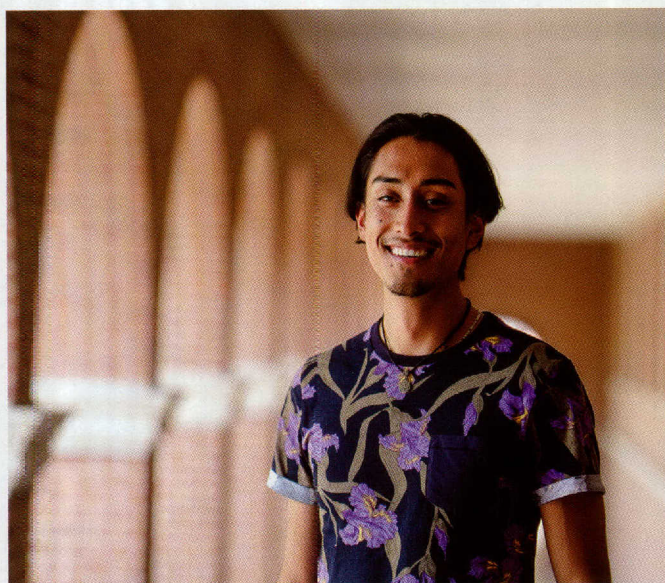
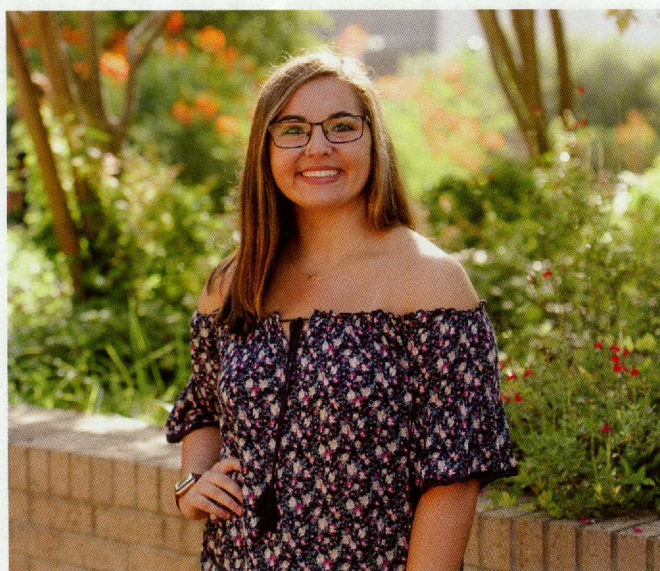
### Antonia Lubrano

#### University Scholars Health Professions Scholarship President's Honor Scholarship

Growing up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Antonia Lubrano wanted to attend college someplace far from home but still within driving distance. “When I visited Texas State, it just clicked,” she remembers. “It felt like home, and I loved that we were close to Austin and San Antonio.”

In her first year of college, the pre-nursing major took honors classes, joined the club swim team and went on the Bobcat Awakening retreat through Our Lady of Wisdom University Parish. She plans to become a nurse practitioner and work in pediatric settings.

Lubrano, a sophomore, received the University Scholars Health Professions Scholarship and the President's Honor Scholarship, which qualified her to pay in-state tuition. “I wouldn't have been able to go to Texas State if I hadn't gotten that scholarship to help waive the out-of-state fees,” she says.



### Cecilio López Rosales

#### Terry Scholarship

In fall 2018, Terry Scholar Cecilio López Rosales transferred from the Lamar Institute of Technology. Today he is a Texas State junior majoring in sociology and Spanish.

López Rosales was just 10 years old when his family came to the United States from Guanajuato, Mexico. The middle child of five, he says “it is especially challenging” to be the first in his family to attend college.

This July, he participated in a study abroad program to Spain. After graduating from Texas State, López Rosales plans to attend graduate school for Latino studies or communications. He would like to work at a university.

“Being a Terry Scholar has been one of the biggest blessings of my life. It has been through my service to my communities that I was given this opportunity. Therefore, as a Terry, I have to continue those same principles and values that got me here. As a Terry, I am at Texas State to serve, not to be served,” López Rosales says.



# THE BOBCAT PROMISE

## A GUARANTEED WAY TO FUND TUITION AND FEES FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS

The Bobcat Promise is a Texas State University program that guarantees paid tuition and required fees for 15 credit hours per semester to new entering freshmen with a family adjusted gross income (AGI) that does not exceed \$35,000.

Eligible students must apply and be accepted for admission to Texas State, and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than January 15. This program provides each student with an award in excess of \$11,000 per academic year.

“The Bobcat Promise program promotes access and opportunity to students to achieve success and realize their higher educational goals at Texas State, regardless of financial barriers,” says Stephanie Lopez, assistant director, Financial Aid and Scholarships.

### To be eligible for the Bobcat Promise, students must:

- Be an entering first-time freshman
- Be a Texas resident
- Have a family AGI of \$35,000 or less
- Be enrolled full time and complete at least 15 credit hours each semester (fall and spring)
- Have financial need as demonstrated by the FAFSA

Students who meet the eligibility criteria are identified by Financial Aid and Scholarships. For renewal, student must be enrolled full time, maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA, and complete at least 15 credit hours per semester in the previous academic year. They must also meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, which apply to all federal, state, and institutional financial assistance programs. 🌟

## BOBCAT PROMISE FIVE-YEAR HISTORY

### Students served by Student Participation and Success Initiatives

2015-16

**1,432**  
students

2016-17

**1,439**  
students

2017-18

**1,811**  
students

2018-19

**1,719**  
students

Source: Financial Aid and Scholarships.



# BOSS SYSTEM STREAMLINES PROCESS FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN TO TEXAS STATE

Before the Bobcat Online Scholarship System (BOSS) launched two years ago, Texas State students had to navigate a siloed process to apply for university scholarships. Each of the 10 colleges had their own applications, deadlines, and requirements, as did Financial Aid and Scholarships.

“When an incoming freshman simply asked, ‘How do I apply for scholarships?’ we could never give a simple answer,” says Stephanie Lopez, assistant director, Financial Aid and Scholarships. “Now we are down to one application.” That one application is the Bobcat Online Scholarship System (BOSS). Some 500 universities use this type of system, and Lopez says the goal is to reach all students; to that end, Financial Aid aims to get a 100% buy-in across the campuses, with all departments awarding scholarships using the system.

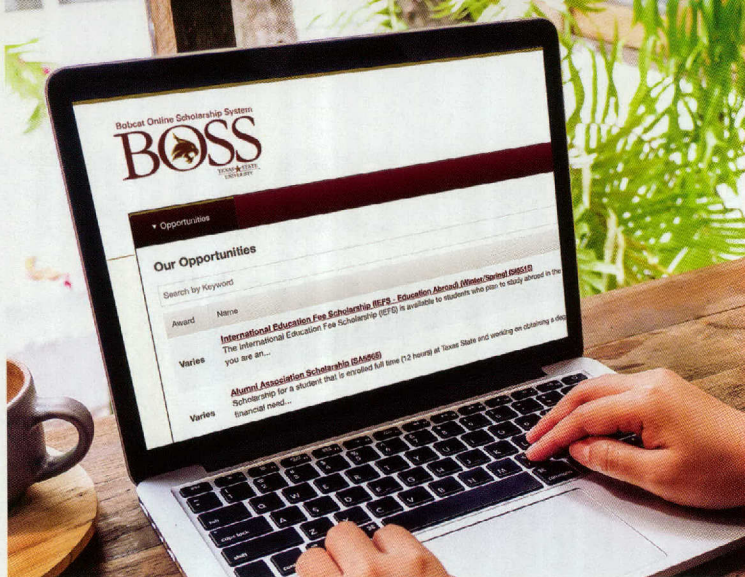
## HOW IT WORKS

After freshmen complete the admission application at [applytexas.org](http://applytexas.org), they receive a NetID and can go to BOSS to apply. Using a potential education major as an example, Lopez explains that the student can complete one application and it auto matches to the different opportunities. “So even though the College of Education might have 90 endowments, a student no longer has to fill out 90 applications for scholarships. They just do one and they are auto matched.”

Here is the process:

- If there is an essay required for a scholarship, it can be uploaded on the site.
- Scholarships that require financial need will use the data available from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Reviewers on campuses can see and score scholarships online.
- The compliance process is covered. Lopez explains that this prevents scholarships from being misawarded, which happens when not all endowment requirements are met.

Once the student has received and accepted a scholarship through BOSS, he or she uploads a thank you letter to the donor. “It is very important that we get those thank you letters and get them to the donors. It makes a big difference in donor giving,” says Kimberley Garrett, associate director, Endowment Services. Not every scholarship requires a thank you letter, but Garrett is notified when one is written and



submitted. “I can assure you that we have received many more donations to endowments because the donors receive thank you letters from the recipients that just rip their hearts out.

“We even had one donor that the recipient’s parents wrote a thank you letter to. That one made me cry. Guess what? That donor said he wasn’t giving us any more money and he then wrote a check for \$100,000.”

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Garrett says that most of the entering freshman scholarships are awarded to students in the top 20% or 25% of their high school graduating class. These are the students with an above average GPA and good scores on the SAT and ACT. “That’s the bottom line,” she says. Applications on BOSS open no later than November and much earlier for freshmen. The deadline for transfer and currently enrolled students is March 1.

Texas State has three categories of academic scholarships for incoming freshmen: national scholarships, assured scholarships, and competitive scholarships. The first two are automatically awarded upon admission if the student meets the academic requirements. For a competitive freshman scholarship, a student must meet the requirements and complete the BOSS application.

BOSS has made a difference with scholarship applications, Lopez says. “For our freshman class, we’ve seen an increase in students where Texas State is now their first choice,” she says. “We see students almost immediately accept scholarships online. You don’t have to be accepted by the university to apply for a scholarship, but you do have to be admitted to receive it.” 🍀

**ONLINE:**  
**[TXSTATE.ACADEMICWORKS.COM](http://TXSTATE.ACADEMICWORKS.COM)**  
**[BOSS.TXSTATE.EDU](http://BOSS.TXSTATE.EDU)**



# FIERCELY LOYAL BOBCATS

## FOR BILL AND LOMA HOBSON, SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY MEANS ENDOWING SCHOLARSHIPS

As lifetime members of the Texas State Alumni Association, it seems like William “Bill” Hobson (B.S. ’64) and Loma Chance Hobson (B.A. ’64) have always been Bobcats and steadfast supporters of the university.

Their generosity has given many students the opportunity to become Bobcats. In 1998, they established the William and Loma Hobson Endowed Scholarship at Texas State for high school students from Edna, Bill’s hometown.

In the 1960s, Bill was a member of Pi Sigma Chi and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternities, a Strutters manager, junior class president, senior class president, and a student senator for Student Government. Loma was among the first class of Strutters and a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

They graduated from Texas State in January 1964 and married six weeks later. They both began careers as teachers, but after four years Bill’s interest turned to investments. One investment company would give him a job only on the condition that he get some military experience. Bill joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and trained as a cook while continuing to work with PaineWebber. He would eventually retire as a senior vice president of USB Wealth Management USA.

It was the country life that captured their hearts and their weekends. They began ranching and farming in 1991. Following Bill’s retirement in 2006, it became their full-time occupation with their move to Cat Spring, west of Houston.

Since 2004, 11 students from Edna — population 5,499 — have graduated from Texas State thanks to the Hobson scholarship. In their letters of thanks to the Hobsons the students share their goals and hopes.

“With this degree I plan on expanding my dad’s



business and being a manager of the company. This scholarship will help me with college expenses and will keep me motivated to keep my grade point average up,” writes Shelby Sparks (B.A. ’18).

In 2013, Courtney Bauman (B.S. ’17) wrote: “Texas State was always the college I wanted to attend. It was the school my father had wanted to attend, but sadly he ran into financial problems and could not go. I plan on getting all my basics out of the way and exploring the many great degree plans that Texas State has to offer.”

Lori Ann Nidey, who earned a bachelor’s degree in education in 2017, wrote: “Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. Once I achieve my lifetime goal of becoming a speech pathologist, I hope I am able to help people of all ages achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.”

In March, the Hobsons established an estate gift to the university that will fund new scholarships for agricultural studies, graduates of nearby Sealy High School, and a fellowship matching fund to support graduate researchers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“We learned that philanthropy can leverage others to give and accomplish much more than we can alone,” Bill says. Their latest project is leading the charge to establish a culinary program to enhance vocational skills at Sealy High School. “Everyone has to eat and there is a huge need for talented workers. It’s funny how my stint in the reserves brings me full circle.” 🌟



# BOBCAT GOLD: THE PLACE TO FIND FINANCIAL TOOLS, EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2018, Financial Aid and Scholarships introduced Bobcat Gold, where students can find the financial tools to help with college and beyond. For scholarships, there is iGrad, a searchable site listing about 5,000 external scholarships. There are also various calculators to track such things as credit card debt, student loans, savings, and investments.

“The financial coaching is probably the single most effective way for students and families to help understand and get ready for college. There’s no better way of doing it,” says Dr. Byron Kerr, assistant director, Financial Aid and Scholarships. “They speak with a certified financial professional. That person is the financial coach who now knows you and what your goals are.” He explains that the coach will meet with the student and his or her family to start building on what needs to be done, based on that initial conversation. “I cannot stress it enough. It is seriously the best product that a student could possibly tie themselves to — and it doesn’t cost them a penny.”

Kerr says that iGrad is just one piece of a larger financial literacy initiative that Texas State is undertaking. The university is working with Trellis, a nonprofit corporation promoting access and success in higher education. The

Title V Hispanic Serving Institutions Career and Financial Education (CAFÉ) program in University College offers a number of financial education events throughout the year for juniors and seniors, as well as one-on-one financial coaching. Through iGrad, students can search and apply for external scholarships.

The student loan estimator, which will allow students to track federal and state loans, is now online and available to students.

“The trick about scholarships is that it is all about the hustle. It is about getting in there and getting creative,” Kerr says. He frequently uses “outdoors” as an example. Plug in “aquatics” or “fishing” and see what pops up. “One of my students got a Dow scholarship when ‘polymers’ popped up on her list,” Kerr says.

“Bobcat Gold has in it the tools, the calculators, the things you need for self-learning. You also have access to free financial coaches that are professional who will be able to help you make the right choices, as you take these tools and move forward with them.” 🌟



**BOBCAT GOLD**

GROW YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

**ONLINE:  
BOBCATGOLD.  
TXSTATE.EDU**

## TEXAS STATE FINANCIAL AID

**27,000+**

students awarded  
financial aid  
in 2018-19

**\$373  
MILLION**

in financial aid awarded  
in 2018-19

Source: Financial Aid and Scholarships



# REENTRY SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STUDENTS FINISH THEIR DEGREES

What if you aren't a fresh-faced freshman? Is there a scholarship out there for someone who is older and hasn't completed a bachelor's degree?

Yes, they are called reentry scholarships.

The Bernard Osher Reentry Scholarship is for students between the ages of 25 and 50 who have a five-year cumulative gap in their undergraduate education. Texas State is the only university in the state to offer the Osher Reentry Scholarship. Since its inception at the university in 2011, about 53 Osher Reentry Scholarship recipients have graduated, says Kimberly Garrett, associate director, Endowment Services. Each year, the university distributes \$50,000-plus in Osher funds for tuition and fees.

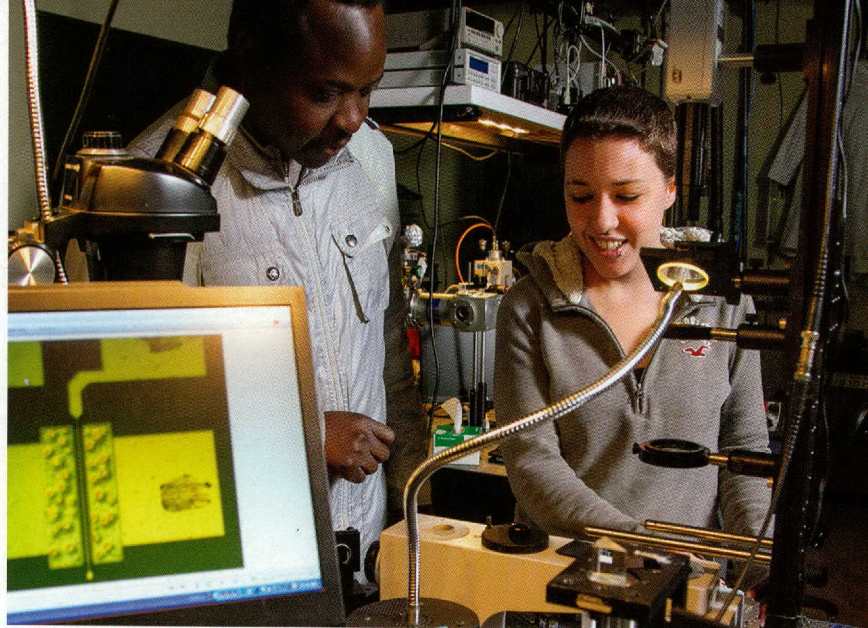
"These students are usually 3.5 to 4.0 (GPA) students. They are serious about getting that degree and they are working hard to do it," Garrett says. These are full- and part-time students and the scholarship is renewable as long as the students are making progress. "It really makes a difference. These are students and individuals who have been working in the real world and understand how a college degree provides opportunities that can improve their professional lives," she says.

## FINDING STUDENTS

When the scholarship was introduced at Texas State, it was Garrett's job to get the word out and find those who met the criteria. She compiled a list of older students and sent a mass email. She explained how they had to have a gap in their college education and attached an application to the email. That first year the university received 70 applications and 25 students received the award. In 2018-19, there were 23 applications accepted — 11 were from existing Osher scholars and 12 were new applications.

## BRING BOBCATS BACK

Bring Bobcats Back (BBB) was created in 2018 to encourage students to return to Texas State and finish their degrees. Scholarships between \$1,000 and \$5,000



are distributed to students who meet the criteria. Eligible students are:

- U.S. citizens
- pursuing their first bachelor's degree
- between the ages of 25 and 50
- committed to degree completion
- those who have experienced an interruption in their education of five or more years

Gary Ray, associate vice president, Enrollment Management and Marketing, says that more than 350 former Texas State "stop outs" were invited to apply the first year the scholarship was available; from that initial pool, 57 responded and 20% were enrolled.

Funding for BBB is being generated by a \$100,000 grant from the California-based Crankstart Foundation. Crankstart was started by philanthropist and author Sir Michael Moritz and his wife, Harriet Heyman. The Welsh-born Moritz is a venture capitalist and former journalist who has donated millions to universities and foundations around the world.

Business management major Meaghan Ponder is a recipient of the BBB grant. She is set to graduate in December. "Finishing my degree had always been a goal, but I always seemed to find reasons that the time wasn't right. Budgeting money to return to school was a reason at the top of the list for not returning to school," she says. "When I was offered a Bring Bobcats Back grant, I realized that there was no time like the present to make my graduation goal a reality. This grant program is a win-win for any returning student." 🌟

**WHERE TO APPLY**  
Osher scholarship,  
visit:

**[BOSS.TXSTATE.EDU](https://boss.txstate.edu)**

BBB grant, students  
should email  
**[financialaid@  
txstate.edu](mailto:financialaid@txstate.edu)**



**KAELIN TILDEN**

**Public relations; will receive her bachelor's degree in December.**





# WORK-STUDY

## STUDENTS GAIN RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE THROUGH JOBS4CATS

By Edmond Ortiz

While preparing for his freshman year at Texas State University, Pablo Montes wasted no time looking for a job. Shortly before his first semester began, Montes logged onto the Jobs4Cats system and applied to all open positions, focusing on work-study opportunities.

“Once I moved onto campus, the pressure to find a job intensified,” Montes says. “I even went to Career Services to seek help with the job search, completely unaware I would end up working there.”

Montes is one of several hundred Texas State students who seek financial aid every year in the form of on- and off-campus positions through Jobs4Cats. He spent his college career employed in the Career Services office, most recently as the welcome desk team leader. He graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Dr. Sheyenne Krysher, assistant director for operations in Career Services, says an average of 500 students capitalize on work-study opportunities each year for work-study and regular wage positions. More than 20,000 students have used Jobs4Cats in the past year.

Krysher says Jobs4Cats helps many students who need financial assistance and want to get a jump on relevant professional experience. “It’s the most central area for the job-seeking student. There are part-time jobs for students looking to get by, and jobs for students looking for something long term,” she says.

The work-study program determines a participating student’s eligibility by evaluating financial need. Montes says that his job search was difficult. “The job being related to my major had little to do with which openings I applied to — I was just in a rush to find a job and start getting paid,” he says.

His on-campus job allowed him to develop vital technical and communication skills and to network with people who could help him after college. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in counseling.

Career Services provides various work-study opportunities to benefit participating students and the campus organization that is employing them, Krysher says. “There’s enough of a variety of jobs that reflect the needs of our departments.” For example,

work-study students at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment navigate boats and help with tours for visitors.

Off-campus jobs have helped students such as Kaelin Tilden, a public relations major who’s set to receive her bachelor’s degree in December. Tilden has most of her college costs covered, but she also applied for scholarships and browsed relevant work-study positions. “I was looking for stuff I’d be interested in,” she says. She eventually landed a position with the San Marcos Main Street Program.

Tilden says her Main Street supervisors have been cooperative and understanding about her academic demands, and she has learned much on the job. Since Tilden began working at Main Street in October 2016, she has amassed various skills, from doing graphics design and helping with event planning to handling social media. “I’m proud to have been part of work-study. I’ve gotten real-world experiences, working directly with businesses, encouraging them to participate (with the city),” she adds.

Tilden says she feels if she had not gone through work-study, she likely would have gotten a regular-wage job not tied to her major. “That isn’t bad to support yourself, but (Main Street) has opened doors for me,” she adds.

Krysher says an online platform such as Jobs4Cats helps students to find relevant paid work and teaches them valuable job-seeking skills. Jobs4Cats also benefits partner employers who seek local, talented young adults eager to learn skills applicable to their future careers.

“It opens up students to true equal opportunities. It’s leveling the playing field,” she says. ✪

**ONLINE**  
**CAREERSERVICES.TXSTATE.EDU/  
RESOURCES/JOBS4CATS/ABOUT-J4C**





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2019  
DONOR  
REPORT

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In this new addition to the fall *Hillviews*, we look forward to sharing an update on fundraising activities with our donors who generously support our most essential assets – our students and faculty. Your gifts create opportunities and inspire us all to continue to reach higher and achieve more.



## THE POWER OF GIVING

# \$24,823,976

Amount donated to Texas State University in fiscal year 2019 (as of August 31, 2019)

17%	\$4,317,640	3%	\$750,744
	RESEARCH ACTIVITIES		ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES
53%	\$13,207,334	26%	\$6,548,260
	STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS		FACULTY AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

## THE IMPACT OF ENDOWMENTS

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT

# \$208,459,067

Approximate total value of all three endowments as of August 31, 2019



- \$88,845,357  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
- \$74,014,449  
UNIVERSITY GENERAL ENDOWMENT
- \$45,599,261  
MCCOY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS FOUNDATION

### 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

**839**  
TOTAL NUMBER  
OF ENDOWMENTS

**53**  
NEW ENDOWMENTS

**\$8,062,243**  
ENDOWMENT GIVING TOTAL

**133**  
Program Support

**628**  
Scholarships

**78**  
Research



## THE WITTLIFF COLLECTIONS FESTIVAL

### *Celebrating a legacy*

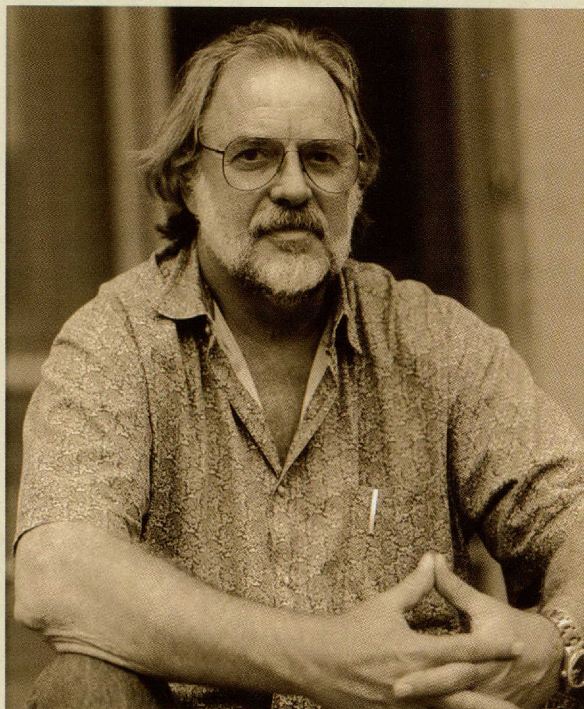
The world lost a treasure when Dr. Bill Wittliff, a Texas State Hero, passed away on June 9, 2019. Bill and his wife, Dr. Sally Wittliff, founded The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University in 1986 to collect, preserve, and share the literature, photography, music, and film of Texas and the Southwest. Texas State University is privileged to steward Bill and Sally's vision that now includes more than 500 special collections.

To celebrate Bill's immense legacy and the rich creativity of our region, the inaugural Wittliff Collections Festival will be held April 18, 2020, in Austin. The festival will feature four panel discussions at the W Austin Hotel with internationally known photographers Graciela Iturbide, Keith Carter, and Kate Breakey; writers Lawrence Wright, Sarah Bird, Stephen Harrigan, and Elizabeth Crook; singer/songwriters Flaco Jimenez, Terri Hendrix, Barbara Lynn, and Adrian Quesada; and the makers of the "Lonesome Dove" miniseries.

The festival will culminate in an evening gala at ACL Live at the Moody Theater. It promises to surprise and delight sponsors and guests with a riveting program, live music featuring Ray Benson and Robert Earl Keen, and a chance to acquire rare treasures from "Lonesome Dove" in silent and live auctions.



**WITTLIFF**  
*Collections*  
**FESTIVAL**



Your support of The Wittliff Collections Festival will help Texas State continue to collect, preserve, share, and steward the voices and imaginations of Texas and the Southwest. All proceeds will be used to purchase important collections that will further the world's understanding of our region's unique Spirit of Place. For more information about the festival, please visit [wittliffcollectionsfestival.com](http://wittliffcollectionsfestival.com).

Contact Ramona Kelly at [ramonakelly@txstate.edu](mailto:ramonakelly@txstate.edu) for information about table sponsorships. Individual tickets are not available.







*Tokyo Texas State University alumni reception group photo.*

## ASIA ALUMNI TRIP: BOBCATS MAKING WORLDWIDE IMPACT

In June, a delegation from Texas State University including President Denise Trauth; Dr. Gene Bourgeois, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Dr. Barbara Breier, vice president for University Advancement; and Ron Epperson, director of Strategic Industry Partners, traveled to Hong Kong and Tokyo. They met with several international research partners, university leaders, and alumni engaged in fascinating work.

While in Hong Kong, President Trauth addressed the American Chamber of Commerce and discussed how the university is preparing students to join the global workforce through new degree programs, groundbreaking research, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, and international collaboration. The delegation also met with Texas State alumnus and Texas State Hero Brain Wong and his wife, Winnie.

In Tokyo, the group met with leaders of NEC Corporation, a global information and communications technology leader. Texas State has partnered with NEC since 2014, collaborating on research projects that explore manufacturing processes, data transmission, water conservation, and transportation systems.

“The trip was an experience I will always treasure as a reminder that our Bobcats are making an impact all over the world,” President Trauth said.

The delegation also met with an international partner, Rikkyo University President Yangchoon Kwakand, and renewed the agreement to engage in student exchanges. The trip concluded with an alumni reception, which included more than 50 Bobcats who live and work in Tokyo.

Texas State students were in Japan at the same time as the delegation, traveling to Tokyo and Kyoto for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Study Abroad program. Students learned about travel journalism by writing feature stories and travel essays, capturing photos and videos. Another group of



*President Trauth exchanged gifts with Nobuhiro Endo, chairman of NEC Corporation and presented him with a Lonesome Dove book.*



*Mass Communication students visited the Tokyo office of The Wall Street Journal with alumnus and WSJ correspondent, Kosaku Narioka (far right), the trip’s program director Gilbert Martinez, and senior lecturer Jon Zmich.*

students was visiting Nagoya for a Japanese language immersion program, which Texas State has operated for 14 years.

“I am proud that our students travel around the world, led by our dedicated faculty, to engage in global learning opportunities and to make lifelong memories,” President Trauth said.



## UNIVERSITY GIVING SOCIETIES

The generosity of the individuals listed in this report is essential to Texas State's continued growth and excellence.

## TEXAS STATE HEROES

Texas State Heroes have contributed \$1 million or more in lifetime giving. Through their extraordinary generosity, our Heroes have stepped forward to help us meet the needs of the state, the nation, and the world while also encouraging the dreams and inspirations of our Texas State community.

## TEXAS STATE HEROES

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Mr. Scott R. Emerson



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Pillar Society members represent a profound source of support for Texas State. The Pillar Society recognizes lifetime giving of \$100,000 to \$999,999.

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 and Mr. James E. Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd M. Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. John McCord Spencer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry G. Stein  
 CSM and Mrs. Alex E. Stewart  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Strauss  
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Stroman  
 Dr. Jim Studer  
 and Dr. Roseann M. Mandziuk  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Teis, Jr.  
 Texas Regional Bank  
 Texas State Alumni Association  
 Dr. Sue Thompson  
 Dr. Debbie M. Thorne  
 and Dr. Floyd F. Quinn  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Thornton  
 Mr. and Mrs. William J. Thornton, Jr.  
 Mrs. Barbara Tidwell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Tilton  
 Mr. William H. Trevillion IV  
 Mr. Andrae L. Turner  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Turner  
 Universal Cheerleaders Association  
 Mr. Juan Valdez  
 Col. Richard E. Vasser and Mrs. Vasser  
 Dr. and Mrs. James H. Wacker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell O. Ward  
 Ms. Renee Wash and Mr. Stephen W. King  
 Mr. and Mrs. John R. Weisman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Weiszhaar  
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig W. Westmoreland  
 Mr. and Mrs. Whiskey Whisenant  
 Mr. and Mrs. George A. Wilhite  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark O. Williams  
 Woods Comfort Systems  
 Drs. C. Van and Cherie M. Wyatt  
 Dr. and Mrs. Mike Wynn  
 Mr. and Mrs. Marc Young  
 Mrs. Robbie W. Zunker

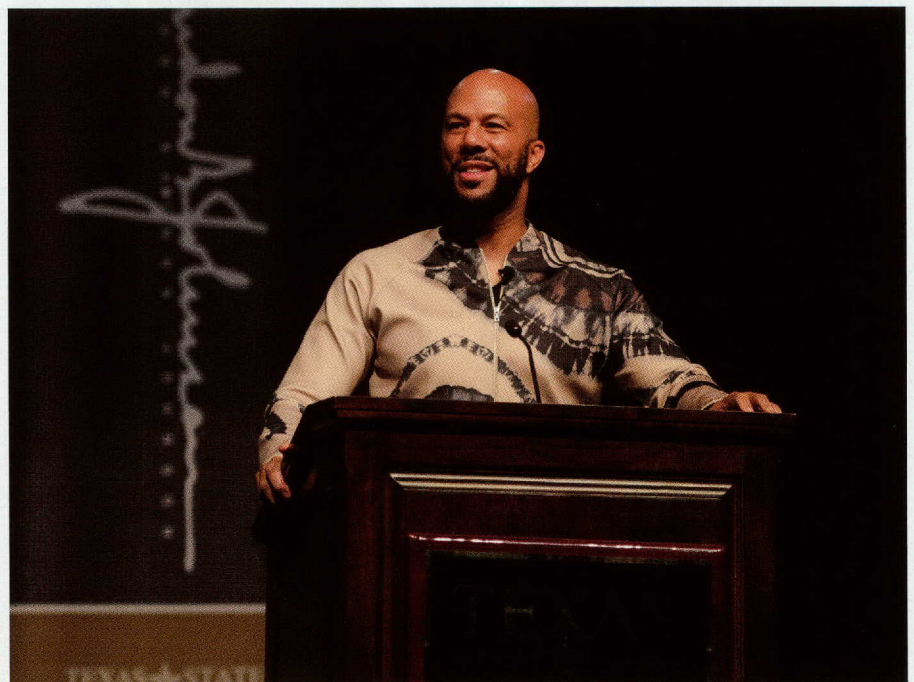
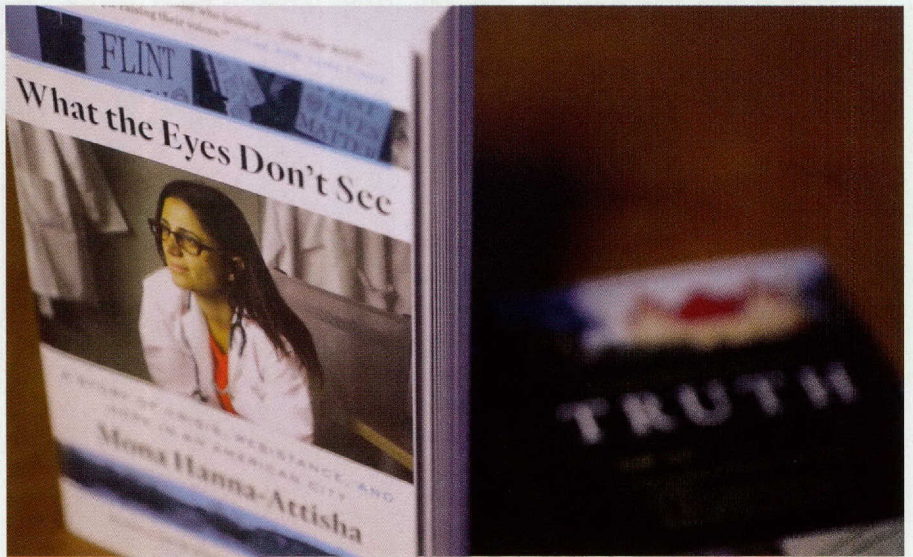


## Truth: This year's Common Experience theme

Texas State University's Common Experience theme for 2019-2020 is Truth. While investigating the topic of truth through University Seminar courses, students will look at truth through every lens: a quest for truth, a search for truth, and an examination of authenticity. Areas of exploration will range from an understanding of university truth – in scholarship and research – to a definition of Universal Truth, and from one's own personal truth to a sense of honesty, accuracy, validity, and truthfulness.

As part of the Common Experience, all incoming first-year students receive a book related to the theme. This year's Common Reading book is *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City* by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. It is her account of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, where dangerous lead levels in the tap water caused serious health issues among its populace. Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician and public health advocate, worked with a team to battle the bureaucratic indifference to the disaster and expose the truth to the world. Named one of *Time Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People in the World," Hannah-Attisha was featured in September at Evans Auditorium as part of the Common Experience Insight Series.

This year's LBJ Distinguished Lecture Series speaker is the award-winning hip-hop artist and actor Common. Common has an Academy Award, an Emmy, a Golden Globe, and multiple Grammy Awards. In addition to his work in recording and acting, Common is the author of two memoirs – *One Day It'll All Make Sense* and *Let Love Have the Last Word*. In October, Common delivered his talk to a large gathering of students, faculty, staff, and the community at Strahan Arena at the University Events Center.





## Princeton Review puts Texas State on The Best 385 Colleges listing

Texas State University has been named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduates to earn their college degree by the Princeton Review.

The education services company profiles and recommends Texas State in the 2020 edition of its annual college guide, *The Best 385 Colleges*. The book does not rank the universities in numerical order.

"We salute Texas State for its outstanding academics, and we are truly pleased to recommend it to prospective applicants searching for their personal 'best-fit' college," said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review's editor-in-chief and lead author of *The Best 385 Colleges*.

Only about 13% of America's 3,000 four-year colleges are profiled in the book. The company chooses colleges based on data it annually collects from administrators at hundreds of colleges about their institutions' academic offerings. The Princeton Review also considers data it gathers from its surveys of college students who rate and report on various aspects of their campus and community experiences for this project.

The Princeton Review's school profiles and 62 ranking lists in *The Best 385 Colleges* are posted at [www.princetonreview.com/best385](http://www.princetonreview.com/best385), where they can be searched for free with site registration.

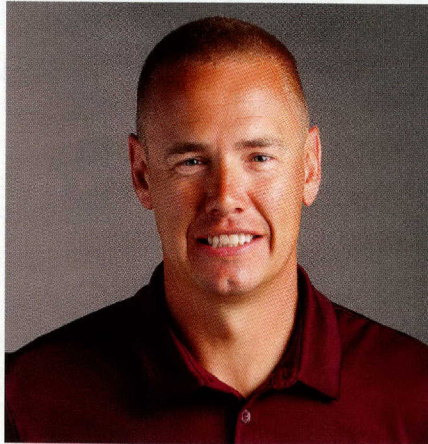
## New coaches named for golf, baseball

Texas State University women's golf has a new head coach with the addition of Par Nilsson. He joined the university after six seasons as assistant coach and interim head coach for the Oklahoma State Cowgirls, three seasons with the University of Denver men's team, and five years of professional golfing.

A native of Ljungsbro, Sweden, Nilsson earned a degree in marketing from Oklahoma State in 2004. Nilsson twice represented Sweden at the World Amateur Team Championship, competing in 2000 and 2002.

Steve Trout was named head baseball coach for the Bobcats, following the retirement of Coach Ty Harrington. Trout recently completed his sixth season overall at Texas State and his second as the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator. He also served as the team's hitting and fielding coach.

A native of Hooks, Trout earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University. As a player, Trout began his collegiate career by playing two seasons at Texarkana College.



## On Stage at Texas State

### THEATRE

#### Little Women – The Broadway Musical

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Alex Rodriguez

Nov. 19 – 24

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

#### blu

By Virginia Gise

Directed by Holly Nañes

Feb. 6 – 9

PSH Foundation Studio Theatre

#### Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Chuck Ney

Feb. 11 – 16

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

#### Men on Boats

By Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Aaron Sparks

March 5 – 8

PSH Foundation Studio Theatre

#### The Other Shore

By Gao Xingjian

Directed by Young Suk Yoo

March 31 – April 5

Theatre Center's Mainstage

#### Guys and Dolls

Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser

Directed by Tom DeBello

April 21 – 26

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

### OPERA THEATRE

#### Cendrillon (Cinderella)

By Jules Massenet

March 26 – 29

Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre





Texas State honored five new Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming Week. With these newest honorees, the Alumni Association and the university have now presented the most prestigious award to 213 graduates since the first was given to then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1959.

The Young Alumni Rising Star Award was created in 2015 and presented the following year to recognize young alumni under age 40 for their exceptional achievements and outstanding accomplishment in their profession, affiliations, and service. The four recipients of this award for 2019 have demonstrated a level of excellence that positively represents the university and serves to inspire current students and other recent graduates to excel in their work and recognize the important impact of their experience as a student at Texas State.

## FEDERICO GORBEA

CLASS OF 1985



Federico Gorbea is president and general director of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and northern South America. Consistently reaching record sales, he has positioned ADM as a market leader in the importation, storage, distribution, and sale of grains, rice, and beans. An inspiring leader, he is committed to team building, integrity, and success.

Previously, he represented the Continental Grain Company in the 1980s, which transformed the grain trading business in Mexico by being the first company to import agricultural products directly

into the country and distribute to the end user. Gorbea serves on the board of several companies and associations including Terminales de Cargas Especializadas, Vimifos, and TERPAC-Guatemala.

A member of the Texas State Development Foundation, Gorbea established an endowed scholarship to benefit international students in the McCoy College of Business. He also serves his local community through donations to organizations that benefit women and children in poverty, as well as children with terminal illnesses.



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# CARRIE ANGELL HURT

CLASS OF 1987

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For more than 14 years, Carrie Hurt has served as president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Inc. of Austin (BBB). Under her leadership, the organization serving the heart of Texas now supports over 17,000 accredited businesses in 105 counties across Texas. It has won multiple awards and has been recognized as a national leader in the BBB community. It has been named a top workplace by the *Austin American-Statesman*, as well as one of the Top 50 Best Nonprofits to work for.

BBB Cares is a program developed under Hurt's leadership that issues staff paid time off annually to give back to their communities. Known for her honesty, integrity and work ethic, Hurt was appointed to the council of the BBB Board of Directors in 2018.

She is a Texas State Alumni Association Life Member and a member of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Advisory Council and has been a presenter for the Texas State Leadership Capstone Program. Hurt is a Rotarian and a member of the American Society of Association Executives. She also supports Chi Omega, the Strutters, and Stelos Alliance.

# ADAM E. LAUBACH

CLASS OF 1993

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Adam E. Laubach is the technology advisor for Exothermix, a Texas-based company focusing on the transformation of materials and products through self-heating technology. He was CEO of Exothermix from 2014 to 2018.

Today, Laubach is the executive director of Amani Baby Cottage in Jinja, Uganda. Last December, Laubach and his family made the move from Texas to Uganda.

Following his graduation from Texas State, Laubach received an M.B.A. from The University of Texas. Over the years, he continued to support Texas State both academically, as a guest

lecturer, and commercially, by facilitating partnerships with technology companies.

Prior to joining Exothermix in 2011, he served as the chief technology officer for multiple technology companies including ReVolt Technologies, GSI Technologies, and Aveso Displays. Laubach also spent 13 years with Dow Chemical.

His contributions in worldwide missions work include helping to develop a desalination system for a community in Haiti, wells and filter systems that provide clean water in Honduras, and clean-burning stoves and ovens in Uganda.



# JEFF NOVAK

CLASS OF 2015

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Jeff Novak is the founding partner and chief architect of business direction and development for Novak Brothers, a residential and commercial real estate development company in Georgetown. He was an offensive tackle for the Bobcat football team for three years before entering the NFL draft in 1990. In 2014, Novak returned to attend classes at Texas State and graduated in 2015 with a degree in applied arts and sciences.

Following an NFL football career that spanned seven years and included the New York Giants, Miami Dolphins, and Jacksonville Jaguars, Novak co-founded and was CEO of Intra Focus

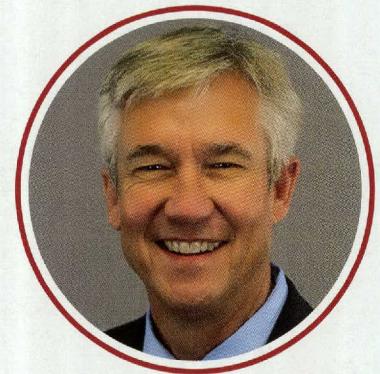
Marketing. He was also a popular keynote speaker for conferences and conventions. In 2010, he teamed up with his brother, Jack, to launch Novak Brothers. The firm is responsible for the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center, the Summit at Rivery Park, the Brownstone, and other custom home building in the Texas Hill Country.

Novak is a member of the Texas State University Development Foundation and was named in 2015 to the Texas State Athletics Hall of Honor. In 2016, he established the Novak Family Endowed Scholarship.

# JOEL STONE

CLASS OF 1988

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Joel Stone is the chairman and CEO of SpawGlass, a Texas-based commercial and civil contractor. He joined the company the same year that he graduated from Texas State. He has been directly involved with the construction of 13 buildings on the San Marcos Campus, including the new home of the Ingram School of Engineering.

Stone has remained engaged with the construction science and management (CSM) program as he continued to further his education, including completing the advanced management programs at Harvard University, the Columbia Business School and Northwestern Kellogg School of Management.

He is a member of the CSM Industrial Advisory Board, the Austin Chamber Education and Talent Development Council, city of Austin's Small and Minority Business Council, the Texas State Technical College Foundation, the Construction Owners Association of America, and the Urban Land Institute.

Stone has been a guest speaker for university classes and is a charter member of the SpawGlass endowed scholarship at Texas State. In 2014, Stone and his family traveled to Haiti on a mission trip to rebuild houses. During this trip, he also used his skills to teach parts of the construction trade to young Haitians.



# YOUNG ALUMNI RISING STAR AWARD



**Bharati G. Naik**

CLASS OF 2005

As a graduate student in 2005, Bharati Naik managed the Texas State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Bobcat Update newscast. Today, she serves as planning producer, newsgathering at CNN London.

In her 14 years at CNN, Naik has helped produce news packages on international events including the Syrian refugee crisis, the earthquake in Nepal, and elections in India and Russia. She has worked with top professionals in the field, such as Soledad O'Brien, Anderson Cooper, Aaron Brown, and Hala Gorani.

Naik has given back to the journalism program by providing career advice and allowing Study Abroad students the opportunity to tour CNN's studio facilities in London. She serves as a member of the National Union of Journalists in the United Kingdom and as a mentor for the Media Trust, which works to give marginalized groups a stronger voice in the media and creative industry.



**Jon David "J.D." Perez**

CLASS OF 2005

Jon David "J.D." Perez is currently head of retail for Hugo Boss – Mexico, managing a team of 150 employees, buying products for stores, forecasting sales goals, and overseeing visual merchandising standards.

He began his career as a Texas State student by working part time as an assistant manager at the Hugo Boss outlet in San Marcos. A first-generation college student, he majored in computer information systems and management, as well and completed Texas State's Latin American Business Certificate Program and the Export Fellows Program, offered by the Institute for Global Business in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

As a member of the McCoy College of Business' Institute for Global Business Advisory Board, Perez provides feedback on academic programs and works to create internships in Mexico. He also gives back to his local community, coordinating a school supply drive and adopting an orphanage foundation, Fundación Familiar Orphanage.



**Katherine E. "Katie" Forrest  
and James "Taylor" Collins**

CLASS OF 2007 AND 2008

Taylor Collins and Katie Forrest are co-founders of Epic Provisions, a company that set out to create "the world's first 100% grass-fed meat, fruit and nut bar." It was a success. In 2016, Epic was purchased by General Mills for an estimated \$100 million.

Retained to lead the brand in a three-year deal, the married couple focuses on regenerative grazing practices to provide healthy food options for future generations. Regenerative agriculture aims to develop healthy, biologically diverse soils that grow healthy, mineral-rich food while also improving soil, crops, and the livelihoods of farmers.

The co-founders are also triathletes and bicycle racers. While Texas State students, they started a commercial recycling business, thrived academically learning about wildlife, exercise and the outdoors. It was the foundation for their business.





PEARSON

22

22





# MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

Bobcat basketball  
player Nijal Pearson  
finds his purpose

By Mark Wangrin

You can't miss it, really. On the right side of Nijal Pearson's neck, inked in 3-inch block numerals, is the number 22.

This is the number the senior guard from Beaumont wears on his jersey for the Texas State men's basketball team, so that tattoo choice might seem redundant at best; egocentric at worst. Look closer, though, and you'll see a heart wedged between the numbers. It's a broken heart.

Nijal got that tattoo in the spring, a week after the 6-foot-5 guard led the Bobcats to a 24-10 season and a tie for second place in the Sun Belt Conference. Pearson's not big on tattoos, so he had to think about it for a long, long time. He wanted it to be special.

"I want you to see it," Nijal says. "When you look at me, I want you to see the 22 — and the heartbreak."

It's the least you can do. After all, he lives with it every day.

The 22 is not his. It belongs to his older brother, Nicholas. Nico, as he was known, wore 22 during his storied basketball career at West Brook High School.

Nine years ago this October, Stephanie Lartigue-Pearson, Nijal's mother, woke him in the middle of the night to tell him Nico, then 21, had died. Lartigue-Pearson will never forget the blank look on 12-year-old Nijal's face. He couldn't understand that his father figure, role model, confessor, and teacher was gone.





### **'My SONshines'**

Nico was the oldest of the single mom's three boys — "My SONshines," Lartigue-Pearson calls them — five years older than Elijah and nine years older than Nijal. Elijah was different from Nico, but Nijal and Nico were alike. They talked, walked, moved, and thought alike.

Nico introduced 2-year-old Nijal to basketball, and that was it. Nijal (whose name is a combination of Nico and Elijah), adored his brother. "I wanted to do everything he did," Nijal says. "Wherever Nico was, I was behind him stepping on the back of his shoes."

As children, they were both preternaturally mature. Nico would pick up his 8-year-old brother from school, sit him on the couch, give him snacks and the TV remote, and go visit a friend around the corner. When Stephanie found out Nijal was home alone, she was upset. Nico assured her, "He's not a baby."

Nico said. Nijal did. Put God first. Be your brother's keeper. School is important. Take care of your family.

Nico brought Nijal to play basketball with his friends, first telling him, "Don't be doing that baby crying if you get fouled. You going to play with the big boys? Let's play."

Lartigue-Pearson remembers when a fan walked up to Nico after one of Nijal's tournaments. "Man, your son is really good. You need to let him play for one of those teams in Houston," she

recalls him telling Nico. "Nijal always looked up to Nico as his dad and here someone thought he was his dad."

### **Finding a purpose**

In spring 2010, Nico was diagnosed with stage 4 testicular cancer. Nijal assumed that the brother he worshipped would beat it. Then he didn't.

"Life was just up and done," Nijal says softly. "I didn't understand why. I didn't understand what was next for me. To this day I still don't understand. They say never question God, but I do it. I still want to know why. That's part of life, I guess.

"I was fighting depression. What am I going to do with it?

Am I going to let it make me mad? Is it going to be a reason for giving up or a reason to keep going? It was a time of life when things weren't fun. I had to find a purpose."

That purpose became honoring his brother. Nijal, who wore No. 3 as an homage to NBA star Dwyane Wade and because he was the third son of a mother he calls "Superwoman," changed his uniform number to 22.

When he came to Texas State, 22 was available — but there was still

more he could do. In November 2016, during his third game as a Bobcat, against Southern Illinois University in the Rainbow Classic tournament, Texas State held a comfortable lead in the closing minutes when he was fouled. Nijal stepped to the

**"Twenty-two is cockier. He's like, 'You're here. Do your thing. This is what you do. Everybody loves you for this.'"**



free-throw line and made his first shot. The referee handed him the ball for his second shot. He dribbled, focused on the basket, bent his knees, shot, . . . and missed.

On purpose. He came out of the game — with 22 points.

Twenty-two is not only something he wears on his back, neck, or box score. “It’s my alter ego,” Nijal says, and he goes on to explain. “See, Nijal is smart,” he says. “Sometimes Nijal holds 22 back, because Nijal understands stuff that goes on in the world. Sometimes Nijal says, ‘Man, I don’t know. You’re in college, playing Division I. You weren’t supposed to make it this far.’”

“Twenty-two is cockier. He’s like, ‘You’re here. Do your thing. This is what you do. Everybody loves you for this.’”

### **Bobcats come calling**

Bobcat fans have found much to love about Nijal Pearson. Not highly recruited, he picked Texas State because it came calling early. It was close to home, but not too close. Coach

**“I wish he was here to have a convo. I’d love to hear his critiques. I know he’d be proud of me.”**

Danny Kaspar figured Nijal would contribute as a freshman, while he honed his shooting and polished the offensive skills to go with his hard-nosed rebounding. But a player transferred late and opened a spot in the lineup, and No. 22 has started every game he’s played.

“We bought an undervalued stock,” Kaspar says. “No one spends more time in the gym on his own ... [He spends] more than any player I’ve ever had. He’s paid his dues.”

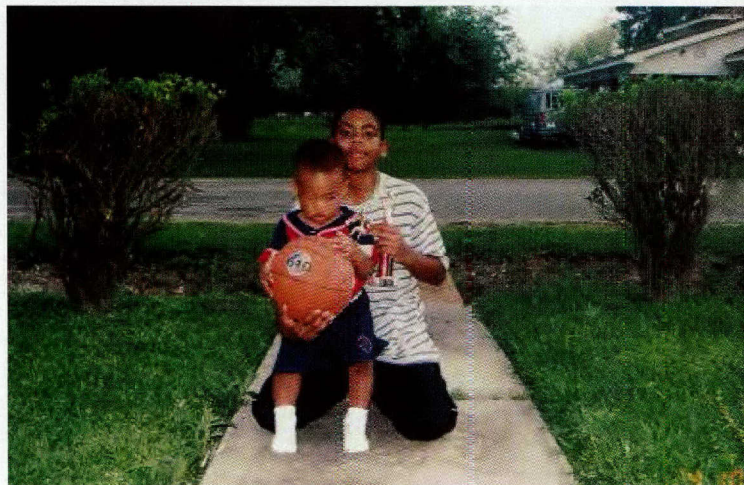
Now in his senior year, Nijal ranks second in three-point field goals made (175) and fifth in points (1,521) on the school’s all-time lists. A business management major, Nijal wants to top those lists and earn Sun Belt Most Valuable Player and then play professionally. He knows there are two things more important.

“I want to leave as a champion,” Nijal says. “I think I deserve it. I owe it to the fans.”

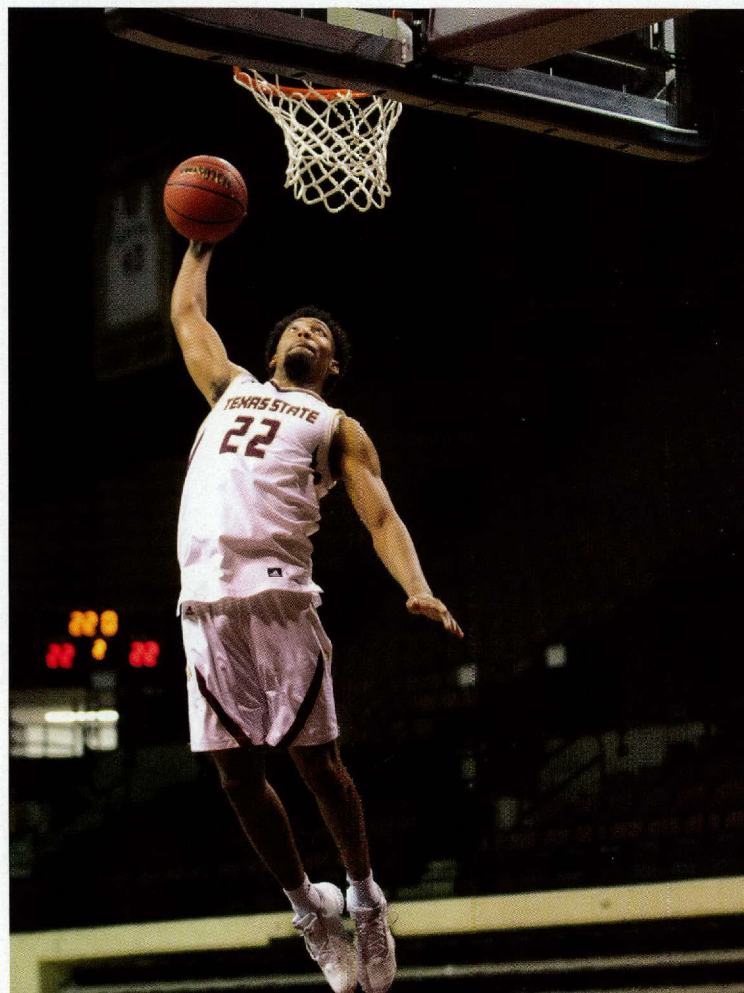
Then there’s what he owes Nico. “I wish he was here to have a convo,” Nijal says. “I’d love to hear his critiques. I know he’d be proud of me.”



*Stephanie Lartigue-Pearson is flanked by her sons, Nico, Nijal, and Elijah.*



*Nijal was just a toddler when he was introduced to basketball by big brother Nico.*







## Bingo business and technology generate success

Melanie Tawil admits being a Bobcat was not her plan but says Texas State helped her discover what she wanted in life

By Jacque Crouse

**When Melanie Aranda Tawil (B.A. '07) first prepared to go to college, there was one thing she absolutely was not going to do — become a Texas State Bobcat.**

There was a family history — her aunts were both Strutters but Tawil thought the university was too close to her home in San Antonio. Instead, she headed off to Lubbock to get a degree in cell and molecular biology.

“I hated it,” she says today, sitting in her San Antonio office filled with brightly colored furniture and children’s play space equipment at the company she runs with her husband, Fred. Today, she is CEO of SwipeTrack Solutions, a tech company she helped to develop to meet the needs of a growing business. It has since morphed into a business that helps many firms — including Legoland, Disney, and Nordstrom Rack — keep their software and hardware working smoothly together.

When Tawil returned in 2005 to San Antonio, dejected and without a degree, her dad told her she had to attend college somewhere. She started classes at Texas State and became involved in Young Democrats and College Democrats of America. She learned the “soft skills” of negotiating, teamwork, team building, and community organizing. After changing her major to political science, Tawil joined the Barack Obama campaign team and spent a summer in Chicago where she co-founded Students for Barack Obama, mobilizing high school seniors and college students.

It was during this period of political organizing that she ran into Fred, a fellow San Antonian and techie who was working for the candidate quietly in the background.

After graduation, Tawil was helping the campaign organize in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and began doing some software development for political websites and donor responses. She and Fred married in 2011. That same year, he was diagnosed with cancer. “We had just married and, well, I’ll tell you, that kind of thing changes the way you look at things,” she says.

His family owned bingo halls, and she and Fred took the company from two halls to three by July 2011. Tawil was on the road to becoming what she calls an “accidental entrepreneur.” With her marketing background and his technical expertise, they were moving the businesses toward high-tech. Bingo requires a lot of reporting, statistics, and technical knowledge. In Texas, the games are required to be charitable and show it every step of the way with every number that is called. It operates with bar codes. The Tawils discovered there was no software and no hardware for an inventory management system.

“We developed a swiper and bar code reader that even allowed us to build a VIP rewards system,” Tawil says. “And we used the data gathered to plan where to put the next bingo hall.”

They eventually thought that if they had problems with hardware not talking to software, maybe others did. The answer was a resounding “yes.” Through trial and

error, they developed a \$200 handheld swiper. It sold out in 48 hours. Today, SwipeTrack Solutions serves a myriad of customers and industries providing devices and technical support.

The bingo business is thriving with halls in Bexar, Travis, Hays, Guadalupe, Nueces, and San Patricio counties that provided almost \$10 million to charities in 2018. The tech business is booming and keeps expanding. The Tawil family has grown to include 7-year-old Lizzie and a 5-year-old John Paul.

SwipeTrack Solutions has been named as one of the top workplaces in San Antonio for two years in a row, Fred is well, and Melanie says she strives to keep herself grounded in both home life and work life.

**“I would not be as passionate about helping others without those people — they and Texas State helped me discover what I wanted in life.”**





## What's cooking?

Oklahoma restaurateur Marc Dunham learned his work ethic early in life

By Brian Hudgins

Marc Dunham's restaurant education started with piles of dishes. He later trained as a chef in Austin and New York City, and earned a bachelor's degree in nutrition and foods in 2007 from Texas State University. The owner/president of Dunham Hospitality Group, Dunham oversees two Oklahoma City restaurants — Nashbird and Iguana Mexican Grill. Two new Oklahoma locations of Nashbird, a hot chicken restaurant, are scheduled to open in Edmond (spring 2020) and Norman.

### How did your family influence your interest in food and restaurants?

My mom worked three jobs the entire time I was growing up. Her willingness to get out there and hustle certainly was a big influence on me. My grandmother probably had more impact on cooking. My grandmother was also a business owner and landlord. Back before a lot of women had the opportunity to get loans and start businesses, my grandmother did that on her own.

### What was your introduction to working in restaurants?

I got a job washing dishes at a German food restaurant in New Braunfels when I was 12 years old. It was out of necessity. I grew up in the business and the moment I figured out that the harder I worked as a busser and a waiter, the more tips I got — that just kind of incentivized me.

### How did you build on that initial experience and take the next steps?

When I really made my decision to become a chef, I was working for Pappasitos in Austin. I had been cooking for a while. It was that time frame around 1995-1996 that I decided to pursue being a full-time chef.

### What did you learn from seeing the restaurant atmosphere and general business atmosphere in San Marcos and Austin?

Being there and meeting other people certainly had an impact on where I thought I could be in my career and my ability to be creative and dream about something. Seeing Austin grow so rapidly, there are real possibilities to be around something bigger. Oklahoma City is not near the point where Austin was in the mid to late '90s, but we are growing. You can have dreams, but if there is not some growth around you, it's not going to happen.

### What are some of the main lessons you learned at Texas State?

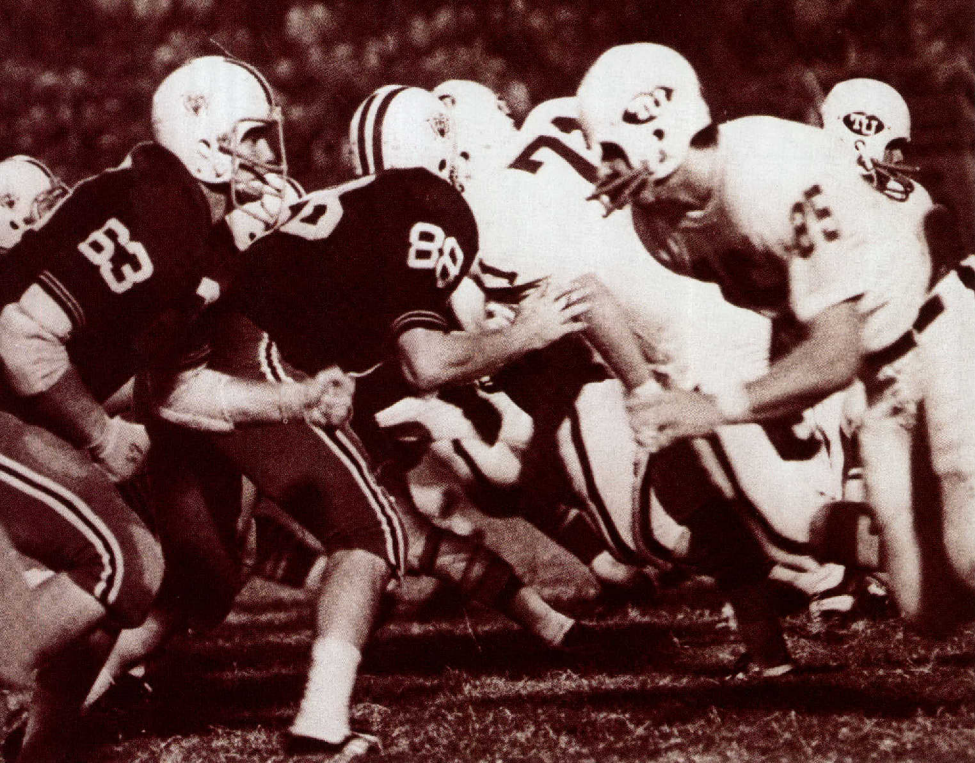
The two biggest people who made an impact were Dr. Sylvia Crixell and Dr. BJ Friedman in Nutrition and Foods. My degree is in nutrition, so I have a deep passion about the scientific part along with the creative side of food. Something that really solidified at Texas State was the rigorous approach to science and nutrition and being diligent in fact seeking and truth seeking. That really helped in business. That is an integral part of day-to-day cooking and how I look at business. That approach, which really firmed up under those two ladies, has helped me tremendously.

### We often hear about the closure rate or failure rate of restaurants. Are new restaurant owners sometimes unprepared for what needs to be done on the flip side when they have success?

A lot of people go into the restaurant business underprepared and there really is no good road map from a book-learning perspective. You really just have to get in there and figure it out. It takes a certain type of person to deal with all the ambiguity. It's a barrage of minute-by-minute decisions that affect your business. The restaurant business is manufacturing, but it's also retail. You also have a lot of employees and what you are manufacturing is perishable. You have to manufacture a perishable, sellable item in front of a customer who is going to give you immediate feedback all day, 365 days a year. You are not sheltered or insulated from anything. You get the criticism in real time.

**“You can have dreams, but if there is not some growth around you, it's not going to happen.”**





# RIVALS AND FRIENDS

Tommy Cox and Jim Rackley: Bobcats in 1970s, Texas High School Coaches Association honorees in 2019

By Mark Wangrin

**Back in November 2001, two men met at Mamacita's Mexican Restaurant in San Marcos for business. They also brought their wives — and a coin.**

After a pleasant dinner, filled with catching up and other warm conversation, Tommy Cox (B.S. '71, M.Ed. '76) and Jim Rackley (B.S. '70, M.Ed. '75) got down to business and flipped the coin. At stake was the choice of home field for a first-round high school playoff game. Cox had brought his Austin Bowie Bulldogs to the playoffs in his final season as coach. Rackley was making his playoff debut after taking over as head coach of the perennial powerhouse Converse Judson Rockets.

Rackley won that toss.

**If you are a high school coach long enough in Texas, you will get to know just about everybody. But Cox and Rackley, who coached against each other four times and just once as head coaches, had an early start.**

Almost 18 years later, the men sit at a table at Mamacita's, enjoying a late Sunday lunch as they reminisce with a writer who serendipitously suggested the meeting site without knowing its significance.

"It might have been a two-headed coin," Cox jokes of that first meeting.

"Trying to take advantage of a rookie," Rackley smiles, shaking his head.

"I think we had made a deal that whoever won the coin toss had to buy dinner," Cox points out.

If you are a high school coach long enough in Texas, you will get to know just about everybody. Cox and Rackley, who coached against

each other four times and just once as head coaches, had an early start. Both were Bobcats back when the university was Southwest Texas State University. Rackley, who graduated in 1970, saw his attempt to walk on to the team thwarted by a knee injury, which also kept him from passing his Selective Service physical. Cox, who graduated a year later, was a three-year starter at linebacker who was named to the school's All-Decade Team in 1979.

They knew each other and shared a class or two but were not what you'd call friends. That would come later.

On this day, they are nestled into a table at Mamacita's to talk about themselves and each other, tell stories and laugh and reminisce — and to discuss the honor that awaits both when they are inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor.

"I always knew he worked his butt off and if he got the chance, he would make the most of it," Cox says of Rackley.

"Tommy was Mr. Austin High School Football," Rackley says.

Cox, who had 115-111-1 record in 23 years as a head coach at Bowie and Austin Travis, including 10 playoff appearances, is



*Kappa Sigma Jim Rackley appears as happy as his companion as the boy waits in line with his new toy gun.*





Tommy Cox (83), puts the stop on a San Angelo running back with an assist from another Cat.

humbled by the honor. “A lot better coaches than me never got this honor,” he says. “I’m very fortunate.”

After retiring from coaching, Cox served as athletic director of the Austin Independent School District until 2014, when he retired to spend more time with his wife, Brenda — a former Texas State Strutter — at their home of 40 years southwest of Austin.

Rackley spent seven years as head coach at Antonian College Preparatory and Southwest High School before succeeding coaching legend D.W. Rutledge at Judson. He had twice been an assistant at Judson, and went 101-37 and took the Rockets to three state championship games, winning in 2002. His overall record is 128-91.

In 2009, Rackley had a heart attack. He had surgery to clear five blocked arteries and retired after the 2011 season. He and his wife, Gerry, run Hickory Lake Beef, which specializes in raising

**“We’d be good friends 364 days of the year but for one day, it’s World War III.”**

grass-fed cattle, from their ranch in La Vernia. He, too, considers the induction a blessing.

“This is a very humbling honor,” Rackley says. “I owe a tremendous thanks to my family, coaches, teachers, administrators, and athletes that have made it possible. I especially thank God for his continued help and guidance.”

Cox says, “Jim was tougher than me. He lasted longer.”

“But you became an AD (athletic director),” Rackley says, suggesting a different, and possibly more difficult, kind of job stress.

“...Which means you were tougher than me,” Cox smiles, though he later concedes that administration does present different stresses without the same satisfaction as working directly with kids.

**“I remember driving home with my oldest son from a Saturday morning practice,” Cox recalls. “Garrett must have been 13. He said, ‘Dad, I want to be a coach.’ I asked him why. He said, ‘Because you’re always around your friends.’”**

After college, they both were drawn to coaching — Rackley because his dad held coaches in awe; Cox because he figured that’s just what football players did after graduating.

They reconnected at Saturday morning freshman track meets, where there’s a lot of downtime for coaches like them — invariably also varsity football assistants — to talk shop. It’s an odd dynamic — they were buddies except for game day. “We’d be good friends 364 days of the year but for one day, it’s World War III,” Rackley says.

The men banter and joke and recall details from years and games past. They remember stuff like the alignment of the defensive line and the motion play that Cox wishes he had run more. Surprisingly, they don’t seem to remember the scores or care much that they don’t. (For the record, Rackley won their one matchup as head coaches 49-21.) The profession they chose has been good to them, and they know it.

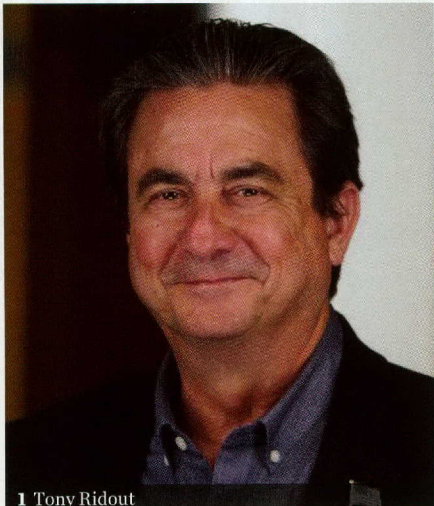
“I remember driving home with my oldest son from a Saturday morning practice,” Cox recalls. “Garrett must have been 13. He said, ‘Dad, I want to be a coach.’ I asked him why. He said, ‘Because you’re always around your friends.’”



Jim Rackley (left) and Tommy Cox.



# (class)notes



1 Tony Ridout



2 Dr. Dee Ellis



3 Margaret "Meg" Winchester

## **Veronica "Nicki" Harle '71**

Baird, was appointed to the Texas State University Board of Regents by Gov. Greg Abbott. Her term will expire in 2023. She is the co-founder of the Texas Midwest Community Network and a member of the Texas Economic Development Council.

## **Don Flores '73**

El Paso, was appointed to the Texas State University Board of Regents by Gov. Greg Abbott. He is president and owner of Flores Media Consulting. He previously served as vice chairman of the Texas Southern University Board of Regents and as chairman of the Texas State University System. In 1994, Flores was named a Distinguished Alumnus.

## **Elizabeth "Stoney" Walker '73**

Seguin, has written a children's book, *Boko the Bobcat*. The 20-page book, illustrated by Jill Kemp Pankey, is available at the university bookstore.

## **Randall Larsen '74**

Wimberley, has created "Black Hawk Down: The Untold Story," a documentary film about the 10th Mountain Division soldiers who rescued Army Rangers and the Delta Force team during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu. Larsen retired as a colonel after 32 years with the U.S. Air Force. The film is available at amazon.com.

## **Eugene Lee '74**

San Marcos, won the Helen Hayes Award for best lead actor for "Two Trains Running" at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Lee is a Distinguished Alumni and artist in residence with the Department of Theatre and Dance.

## **Roland Scott Phillips '75**

Junction, was inducted into the Texas High School Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Waco. In his 30 years of coaching, 26 as a head coach, Phillips finished with a career record of 238-75-4 at high schools in High Island, Groveton, Waxahachie, Plano, and Odessa.

## **Bill Reeb '78**

Austin, is the new chair of the American Institute of CPAs, the world's largest member organization representing the CPA profession. He is the chief executive of the management consulting firm Succession Institute.

## **Tony Ridout '79**

San Antonio, won the Pioneer Award from the American Subcontractors Association. The award is presented each year to an outstanding individual in the construction industry. Ridout is a managing shareholder of Ridout Barrett & Company.

## **Dr. Dee Ellis '80, '00**

College Station, is a veterinarian with the Texas A&M Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases. Current projects include cattle fever tick research, emergency response planning for animals in disasters, and professional training for veterinarians in Africa related to disease biosecurity.

## **Regina Bailey '81**

Centerton, Arkansas, has joined Menasha Packaging Company as a senior director retail and category strategy for Walmart.

## **Margaret "Meg" Winchester '83**

Spokane, Washington, has joined Visit Spokane as president and CEO. She was previously director of the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## **Greg Ward '85**

Frisco, has been named interim Frisco police chief. Ward previously worked for the city of Carrollton and Texas State police departments.

## **Ragan and Christi Bond '87**

Brenham, co-founders of Independence Coffee Co., were named Texas' Small Business Persons of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 2016, the Bonds were profiled in *Hillviews*.

## **Terry Nichols '91, '96**

Seguin, has been named the chief of the Seguin Police Department. He previously served as police chief for the city of Brownwood.

## **Floyd Hamilton '91**

San Antonio, is heading up the southwest division of CML Security, a Colorado-based detention equipment and security electronic contractor.

## **Debbie Hiott '92**

Austin, was named general manager of radio station KUT 90.5, Austin's NPR station, and KUTX 98.9, the Austin Music Experience. Hiott previously was the editor of the *Austin-American Statesman*.

## **Dr. Virginia McDermott '93**

High Point, North Carolina, has been named dean of the Nido R. Qubein School of Communication at High Point University (HPU). She joined HPU in 2010 as associate professor of strategic communication.





4 Erica Benites Giese

**Derek Whiteley '93**

Athens, has been named director of information technology for the city of Athens.

**Hugo A. Gutierrez '94**

Houston, has been elected chair of the board of directors of the Senate Hispanic Research Council (SHRC). The Austin-based SHRC provides educational and leadership opportunities for students through the Sen. Gregory Luna Legislative Scholars and Fellows. Gutierrez is the senior manager of state government relations for Marathon Oil and a member of the Texas State Development Foundation.

**Ken Kuehler '94**

New Braunfels, has been promoted to general manager of Detex Corporation. He will manage the daily operations of the company, which manufactures security door hardware.

**Nicole Murphy '94, '08**

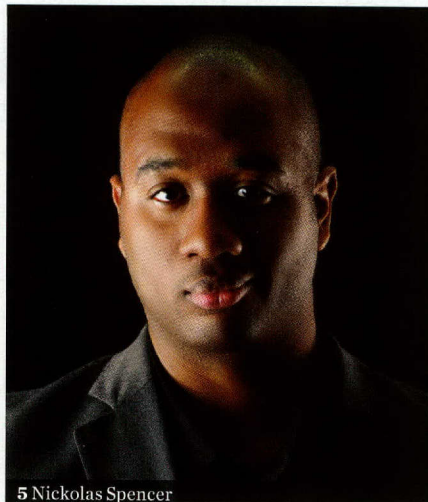
Temple, was named principal of Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood Academy. She was previously an assistant principal with Temple ISD.

**Dr. Melissa Weathersby '94**

San Antonio, owner of 5-Star Empowerment, a consulting and coaching business, has been accepted into the Forbes Coaches Council, an invitation-only community for business and career coaches.

**Dr. Bret Champion '95**

Medford, Oregon, has been named superintendent of the Medford School District. He was previously superintendent for the Klein ISD.



5 Nickolas Spencer

**Jennifer Grossenbacher Jones '96**

Austin, is the new executive director of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. She is the agency's first female executive director and had served as acting director since September 2018.

**Steven Colwick '97**

Glen Rose, has been named the Fort Worth market president of Comerica Bank.

**Robin Harkey '97**

Victoria, has been named executive director of the Victoria ISD Education Foundation. She previously served as grant development coordinator for the University of Houston-Victoria.

**4 Erica Benites Giese '99**

San Antonio, has joined the law firm of Jackson Walker as senior counsel. She was formerly the chief of the financial litigation unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas.

**Tina Grider-Cannon '01**

Austin, has been named executive director of the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce. She was previously vice president of government relations with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

**Angela Craig '02**

Charleston, South Carolina, has joined Charleston County Public Library as executive director.

**Brandie Schaeffer '03**

Warrenton, Virginia, was named town manager by the Warrenton Town Council. She was previously interim town manager and has served as the director of Community Development since 2016.

**Lindsey Geeslin '04**

Waco, has been appointed to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas by Gov. Greg Abbott. She is the executive director of the Texas Masonry Council.

**Kristen Harder '06**

San Antonio, has been named a partner with Catto & Catto insurance agency.

**Malori Callahan '07, '11**

Houston, has been named one of the *Houston Business Journal's* 2019 "40 Under 40" honorees. She is the CFO of Willie's Grill & Icehouse.

**Lt. Cmdr. Gennell Kidder '08**

Pensacola, Florida, was named Navy Medicine's Financial Management Comptroller Officer for 2018. Kidder was instrumental in managing a \$125 million budget with a 99.9% execution rate, the highest rate in Navy Medicine East.

**Paula Baldwin '09**

Monmouth, Oregon, recently earned tenure and promotion as an associate professor of health communication at Western Oregon University.

**Clay Holland '09**

Stephenville, has been named assistant coach for track and field at Tarleton State University.

**Christina Gustavson '10**

Austin, was named controller for CrowdOut Capital LLC, a private lending platform.

**5 Nickolas Spencer '11, '16**

Houston, has been named president-elect of the Houston Lawyers Association. He is the managing attorney at Spencer & Associates.

**Clay Thorp '12**

Craig, Colorado, has joined the staff of the *Craig Press*. He previously served as news editor of the *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*.

**Laura Garcia '13**

San Antonio, has joined the staff of the *San Antonio Express-News* to cover health care for the business section. She previously was features editor at the *Victoria Advocate*.

**Dr. Brenda MacArthur '14**

Stony Brook, New York, was named the research lead at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University.



**Lindsey Ramirez '14**

Harrogate, Tennessee, was awarded the Most Likely to Replicate Award at the International Veterinary Simulation in Teaching Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. Ramirez is a student at Lincoln Memorial College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Colter Ray '14**

San Diego, California, has joined the faculty at San Diego State University as an assistant professor of interpersonal and health communication.

**Dr. Kelli Shapiro '14**

Morgantown, West Virginia, is the author of *Historic Movie Theatres of West Virginia* (Arcadia Publishing, 2018) and a program associate with the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation in the Mountain State.

**Laura Baker '15**

Beckley, West Virginia, is the workplace wellness director for Active Southern West Virginia, a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for physical exercise.

**Austin Dyer '15**

Denver, Colorado, was named outdoor adventure coordinator at the University of Colorado Denver.

**Theresa Christine Etim '15**

Houston, has joined the reporting staff of the *Taylor Press*.

**Jennifer Speller '16**

San Marcos, has published a novel, *The Dark Blue Line* (Page Publishing, 2018). Speller is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and works for the office of the Texas attorney general.

**Ryan Dollinger '18**

Beaumont, has been appointed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Advisory Board by Gov. Greg Abbott. He is a licensed master social worker at CURO Health Services, past chair of the Southeast Texas Branch of the National Association of Social Workers, and board member of CASA (court appointed special advocate) of Southeast Texas.

# IN REMEMBRANCE

**Cynthia Rodriguez (B.S. '73),**

of Laredo, who spent more than 30 years teaching home economics, died March 3, 2019. She is survived by her son, Conrad Villarreal.

**Carolyn Plaa (B.S. '87),**

of Waco, died March 3, 2019. She was a lifelong educator who taught in public schools, at the Methodist Home Boys Ranch, and community college. Survivors include her daughters, Christy Malar and Katy Jarvis; and her sister, Marilee Priddy.

**Phillip Lee Taylor (B.S. '12),**

of Mountain City, died March 28, 2019. He was the two-term mayor of Mountain City and served as Hays CISD's director of safety and security. Survivors include his parents, Lee and Glennis Taylor; and his son, Aiden Taylor.

**Phyllis A. Bigby,**

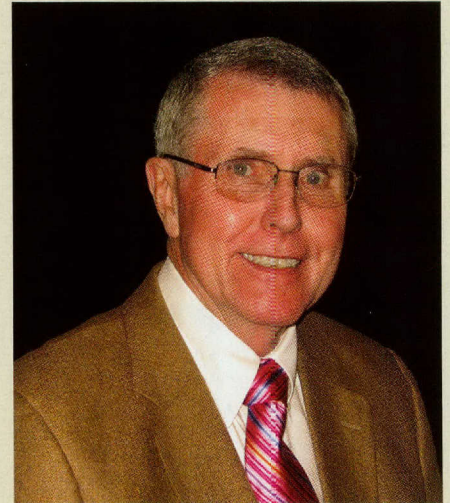
who was instrumental in establishing the university's recreation department and taught physical education from 1967 to 1982, died March 28, 2019, in Fischer. She operated Harambe Oaks, a recreational ranch, until her retirement in 2006. Survivors include her sisters, Annelle Covington and Romelle Parker; and her longtime friend and business partner, Judy Rinker.

**Sandra M. Armstrong (B.S. '80),**

of Kilgore, died March 29, 2019. She was a certified cytotechnologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is survived by her sister, Linda Causey.

**Cassandra Fredrick (B.S. '81),**

who worked as a counselor for inmates at Leavenworth Penitentiary, died Aug. 14, 2019, in Statesboro, Georgia. She married Col. George L. Fredrick (retired), whom she met while both were students at Texas State. Survivors include her husband; a son, George L. Fredrick III; her daughters, QueAndra Campbell, Malia Fredrick, Dr. Patrick Jackson, and Sada Fredrick; and four grandchildren.

**Bruce Gregg (B.B.A. '61),**

of Seguin, a starting member of the 1960 Bobcat NAIA National Championship basketball team, died April 2, 2019. He was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Honor in 1999 and was a board member of the "T" Association. He went on to a career in the Air Force, retiring as a colonel in 1985. Survivors include his wife, Claire; two children; and four grandchildren.

**G.P. "Geep" Day (M.Ed. '54),**

who worked for Judson ISD before his retirement in 1984, died April 17, 2019, in Seguin. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific on the USS Halford. Survivors include Dorothy, his wife of 68 years; and his sons, Joel and Jack.

**Guillermo "Willie" De La Rosa (B.S. '75),**

who served on the San Marcos City Council and worked for Gary Job Corps, died April 30, 2019, in San Marcos. Survivors include his daughters, Barbara Gonzales, Norma de la Rosa, Esmeralda Gonzales, Roxane Morales, and Denise Tristan.

**Minette Cowley (B.S. '69),**

died May 6, 2019, in Spring. Survivors include her husband, Terry; a daughter, Elise; a son, James; and five grandchildren.

Send your Class Notes contributions  
to: [hillviews@txstate.edu](mailto:hillviews@txstate.edu)



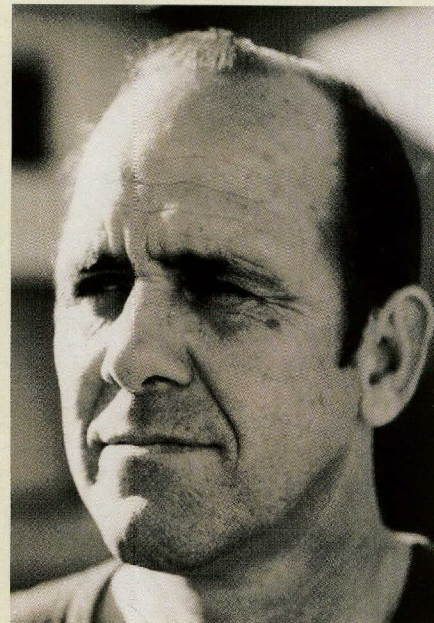
**Joe M. Pirtle (B.S. '52, M.Ed. '58)**, who served as superintendent of Belton ISD for 22 years, died May 13, 2019, in Belton. Following his retirement in 1987, the Joe M. Pirtle Elementary school was named in his honor. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Mary Nell Pirtle; and his daughters Paula Warnke and Jane Dominguez.

**Sherwood Vanderslice Gregory III (B.S. '74)**, of Houston, died July 23, 2019. He served as chapter president of the Texas State Alumni Association and served on the Alumni Board. Survivors include his sons, Sherwood "Van" Gregory IV and Nathan William Gregory; and a sister, Lucille Gregory Walker.

**Dr. Lydia Blanchard**, Distinguished Professor Emerita of English, died May 17, 2019, in Austin. She was chair of the university's Department of English from 1993 to 2005, serving on the faculty until her retirement in 2007. She served the university as director, Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies; director of Planning, School of Liberal Arts, acting director, Center for the Study of the Southwest; co-chair of the President's Council for Women in Higher Education; and chair of the Council of Chairs. Survivors include her husband Melvin Louis Eckhoff; and her sons, Robert and Timothy.

**Dr. Avery T. Sharp (B.M. '64)**, who served as the music librarian in Moody Library and as dean of university libraries, both at Baylor University, died July 25, 2019, in Waco. Survivors include his wife, Dr. Pat Sharp; daughters, Hilary Rachel Sharp and Hayley Dilyana Sharp; son, Robb Taylor Sharp; and two grandsons.

**Dr. James Madison Seals (M.A. '64)**, a professor of education at Oklahoma State University from 1968 to 1998, died July 28, 2019, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He was twice named the College of Education Teacher of the Year. Survivors include his wife Mary Jane; daughter, Ann Farrow; son, Jim Seals; and eight grandchildren.



*Coach Vernon McDonald served as Bobcat men's basketball coach from 1961 to 1977.*

**Vernon "Coach Mac" McDonald (B.S. '52)**, who served as Texas State's basketball head coach from 1961 to 1977, died Aug. 19, 2019, in San Marcos at the age of 90.

As a Bobcat point guard, he earned all-conference honors three times. In 1952, the team finished with a 30-1 record and was third at the NAIA national tournament. After graduation, McDonald coached high school basketball at Eagle Pass High School before returning to Texas State as Coach Milton Jowers' assistant coach.

McDonald was named Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year in 1971, and in 2006 he was named one of the top figures in the first 75 years of the Lone Star Conference. He made the list as both a player and a coach.

He coached more games than anyone in Bobcat history, winning 229 games. He was also an assistant athletic director before retiring from the university in 1988. In 1977, McDonald was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Honor. He received the university's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Dolores (B.A. '52); his children, Donny, Lynn, and Lola; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Vernon McDonald Men's Basketball Endowment, payable to TXST Development Foundation. Mail to Texas State University Advancement Services, JCK 480, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4684

**David Cosner (B.B.A. '16)**, who founded the Texas State bass club and was a competitive bass fisherman, died June 26, 2019, following a lengthy battle with lung disease. He was 29.

**Marshall James Long (B.B.A. '16)**, of Nixa, Missouri, died July 20, 2019. He was 25. Survivors include his parents, Michael and Cheryl Long; and a sister, Veronica.



# The (last) view

*Homecoming Week is the longest-running annual tradition that brings together the community to celebrate Bobcat pride and spirit. The lineup of events from Nov. 3-9 unites students, alumni, faculty, and staff in activities ranging from a taec throwdown to a talent show – all culminating in the football game at Bobcat Stadium.*

*Photo by MeriAllen Krueger*







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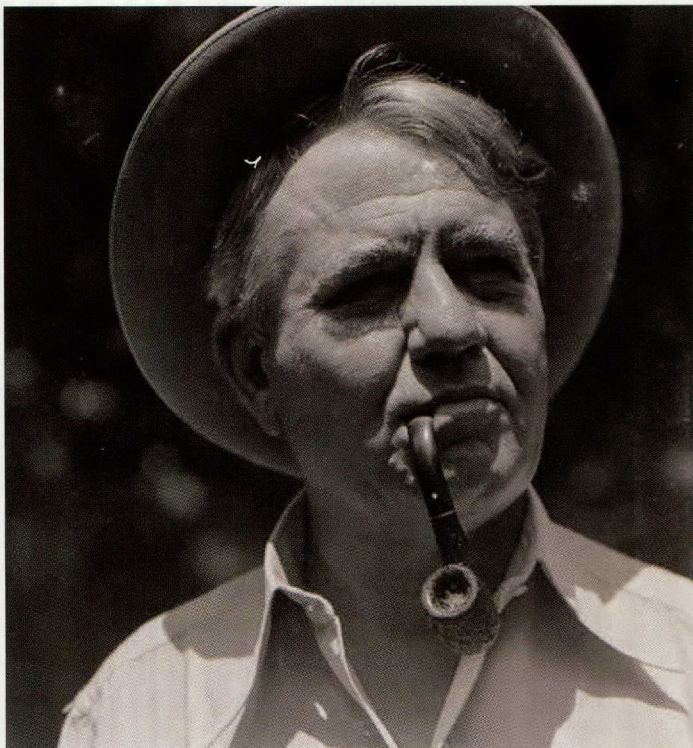


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