SADDLES and SCHOLARSHIPS

Stock Show & Rodeo partners with UTSA to assist students

Also in this issue:
Clay Killinger ‘83 talks about UTSA’s role in S.A.
Couple establishes $7 million trust for UTSA students
Alumnus honors sister with endowed scholarship
Meet
Dr. Alan Dutton

Not just scratching the surface

Dr. Dutton is a rare researcher. He uses advanced software and new modeling techniques to track the flow of groundwater, saltwater and oil in the subsurface. At UTSA he teaches students to analyze these complex interactions, ensuring that a generation of geologists will enter the workforce with the tools necessary to sustainably manage groundwater resources.

Your support equips laboratories like Dr. Dutton’s with the most up-to-date tools and software to enhance the education of students at all levels to competitively enter the workforce. By supporting today’s students, you’re helping to solve tomorrow’s global energy challenges.

Learn more at
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Dear UTSA Friends,

We are UTSA! If you live in the San Antonio area, you may have seen We are UTSA! We pursue will attract new economic resources and experts to benefit our University of Texas at San Antonio. I really enjoyed discovering and legislating through the Texas Research Incentive Program.

Last year was an exciting one for us. Throughout 2009, we commemorated the 40-year anniversary of the legislative act that created The University of Texas at San Antonio. I really enjoyed discovering and sharing our history, but it was also exciting to celebrate our progress and our future.

A highlight of the year was the support we received from the Texas Legislature. UTSA is an emerging research university, a designation that also became official by an act of the Legislature when the university became eligible for special state funding for research and advanced education through the Texas Research Incentive Program.

We are inspired to become a nationally recognized research university for many reasons, but the most motivating is that we believe the people of Texas should have access to exceptional opportunities. The research we pursue will attract new economic resources and experts to benefit our community. Our students deserve to learn from the brightest minds and to actively participate in a first-rate university experience without having to face overwhelming worry about whether they can pay tuition each year.

In this issue of UTSA Giving, we are sharing with you stories of special donors who are supporting our students through scholarships. We also chronicle the impact of state support and highlight recent gifts that are building our research capacity. The university is fortunate to have friends and alumni, like you, who are impacting UTSA through giving—you will see many of them are featured in our Honor Roll of Donors, beginning on page 17.

We are research, we are access to education, and we are impacting our state thanks to your support. We are UTSA! You are UTSA! Many thanks! ¡Mil gracias!

Stories and photos of friends and alumni who are helping make the university great

Valero Energy Foundation gift generates matching funds for UTSA

The Valero Energy Foundation recently contributed $2.5 million to support graduate students in engineering and business, helping to strengthen the pipeline for leadership in these fields. The investment advances UTSA’s bid toward recognition as a premier research university. “This gift demonstrates the Valero Foundation’s commitment to education in San Antonio,” said Valero Chairman and CEO Bill Klesse. “It is our hope that these scholarships will help people get a quality education and enable them to work at companies like Valero in the future.”

Bodenstedts make record $1 million gift to football

Roadrunner football will welcome its first class of recruits this fall with support from Cathy and Jim Bodenstedt. The Bodenstedts made the first million-dollar commitment to support scholarships for the new Roadrunner football team. In recognition of their gift, the student-athlete academic center will be named the James and Catherine Bodenstedt Athletic Learning Center. The Bodenstedts made their gift to assist in the startup of UTSA football and to encourage others to get involved. “This is an important milestone in UTSA’s journey to being a Tier One university,” Jim said. “The football program will highlight the university on a local and national basis, showcasing what we all know is a first-class educational environment. We also want to appeal to those $50,000 UTSA graduates who reside in San Antonio, and all the rest of South Texas for that matter, to help support Roadrunner football, as we all benefit from excellence on and off the field.”

The Bodenstedts are the owners of MUY Brands LLC, a 117-unit franchise restaurant company with locations in Texas and New Mexico. Jim graduated from UTSA with a degree in accounting; Cathy is pursuing a degree in art history at UTSA.
Carlos and Malu Alvarez support graduate research and education

With a new gift of $1.35 million to fund opportunities for graduate students, Carlos and Malu Alvarez continued their legacy of supporting student success at UTSA. This new fund will be used to help recruit talented graduate students and offer support for research and other educational opportunities.

This new fund continues the couple’s generous support of UTSA students. In 2006, a $2 million gift created the Carlos and Malu Alvarez Endowment for Student Success, providing funding for scholarships, research and international programs for undergraduate and graduate students.

The gift will enable UTSA to take advantage of matching funds available from The University of Texas System and the state Legislature through the Texas Research Incentive Program. He is president and CEO of The Gambrinus Co., a privately held corporation located in San Antonio that is best known as the owner and brewer of Shiner Beers.

National Instruments gift creates lab in College of Engineering

National Instruments, an international engineering and science technology company headquartered in Austin, has made a gift of equipment and capital, valued at more than $290,000, to combine and upgrade UTSA’s thermal and dynamic systems laboratories into a single expanded mechanical engineering laboratory. The new laboratory combines experiments in the traditional areas of thermal fluids, mechanical systems and dynamics systems, and offers students training in both mechanical and thermal areas as required by ABET, the recognized accrediting organization for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology.

SWBC Foundation funds Center for Professional Excellence

The SWBC Foundation recently committed $100,000 to fund the renovation of the Center for Professional Excellence in UTSA’s College of Business. The center serves Executive MBA students and alumni, as well as other community leaders, through ongoing leadership development programs and lifelong learning opportunities. The SWBC Foundation’s gift provides catalyst funds for renovating space in the Business Building for meeting and study rooms. The space will be available 24 hours a day for use by EMBA students and the business community.

Colfa students benefit from Reuters’ generosity

Marianne C. and Stewart R. Reuter recently gave $35,000 to UTSA. With this gift, the Reuters added to their previously endowed graduate art scholarship and endowed a new scholarship for vocal music students. The Reuters are dedicated to advancing liberal and fine arts in San Antonio. “We support UTSA because, having lived in both Ann Arbor, Mich., and La Jolla, Calif., we have experienced first-hand the cultural and economic impact a university of first class has on the community,” the couple said.

Suzanne and Rick Cavender, Tenciltha and Alfredo Flores, and Harriett and Ricardo Romo enjoy the festivities at the President’s Holiday Party.

Ricardo Romo and his table guests discuss “Small Town Texas” at Great Conversation! Feb. 23.
Valero exec Clay Killinger says what’s good for UTSA is good for San Antonio

BY LORNA STAFFORD

T
ake a few minutes to visit with Clay Killinger, and you will understand how UTSA is changing lives. Killinger, a 1983 graduate, is now senior vice president and controller at San Antonio-based Valero Energy Corp., the largest independent petroleum refiner in the United States. He credits the university with pointing him in the right direction, and because of that, he and his wife, Cathy, have become two of UTSA’s biggest supporters. Recently, their generosity brought more than $75,000 to the university to be used by President Ricardo Romo for areas of greatest need. They also were the catalyst for Valero’s decision to gift a $2.5 million gift to support graduate students in engineering and business.

“UTSA provided me—someone who did not have any money—the opportunity to go to school and get a great education,” says Clay Killinger, who grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. “I’m a first-generation college student. In my family, there was not an emphasis on higher education. I was taught that after high school you had to get a job.”

And that’s what he did in the early ’70s. But after working in a seafood restaurant, he quickly grew tired of the meager wages. His role model—an Army colonel—unknokingly gave him a solution.

“He was my best friend’s father and he was a great man, the quintessential colonel. He was unbelievably fair, smart and intelligent. I can remember him thinking, ‘I want to be just like that guy.’”

Killinger applied to the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., but says the culture shock proved to be too great. He withdrew from the institute and did the only thing he could think of to do. “Because of my family life at the time, I could not go home,” he says. “I needed to go somewhere. My best friend’s family had been transferred to Fort Sam Houston, so I packed up the car and, at age 18, drove to San Antonio.”

Arriving in the city, he stopped at the first restaurant he saw—a seafood chain—and landed a job. He lived with his friend’s family for two weeks before getting his own apartment. “It was a little one-bedroom, fully furnished apartment for $165 a month located off of Rittiman Road. The place was the center of all activity right off of Interstate 35,” he jokes. But his focus wasn’t where he lived; it was on his future. He knew he had to get into college to have a chance at earning a decent living. That’s when he decided to apply to UTSA.

“I didn’t know anything about UTSA at the time,” he says. “It was just a university of convenience instead of a university of choice. Now things have changed a lot, and probably only in the last decade since Ricardo Romo has been there the university has transformed into what I call a more traditional school.”

He began as a business management major with the plan to work for H-E-B, a grocery chain he frequented and liked. But after acing an accounting test, his direction took a slight change. “My professor called me into her office and asked why I wasn’t majoring in accounting. I said, ‘Well, what does an accountant do and how much do they get paid?’ She told me. Then I asked, ‘If I major in accounting, can I still work for H-E-B?’”

Killinger switched to accounting and achieved a 3.97 grade point average. In his senior year, with help from UTSA’s career services office, he landed an interview with accounting firm Arthur Andersen. He was hired, and over his career worked as an auditor for Whataburger, Valero—and H-E-B.

When Arthur Andersen shut its doors in 2001, Killinger was hired at Valero. He worked his way through the ranks and is now in charge of the accounting department. “I’m proud I went to UTSA,” says Killinger. “Because it is an inclusive university. Every student has a story, a history, and the professors and staff understand and can relate to what you have been through. They take the time to show you what you need to do. I’ve been blessed with a lot of guidance from people at UTSA.”

That’s why, Killinger says, he was eager to give back to UTSA and help the university reach its goal to become a national research university, while continuing to provide access to education. “Giving to the university, helping it reach Tier One, is not just an investment in UTSA; it’s an investment in San Antonio because Tier One universities attract big companies and provide opportunities for our kids,” he says. “We’re not going to wake up one day and have a Tier One university. To get there takes as much effort as it did to get HemisFair ’68, or the Alamodome, or the PGA Tour, or the Spurs.”

Teamwork, he adds, is very important in achieving success. That’s the appeal he made to his bosses at Valero when he asked for their support. “For the university to reach Tier One, it has to be a team effort. The time is right now, and business leaders, corporate officers and people from all walks of life who have been impacted by the university need to think about that and say, ‘I’m making that investment.’”

Cathy Killinger agrees. Also from the Washington, D.C., area, she has adopted San Antonio as her home, and works as a volun-
teer helping many charitable orga-
nizations such as the Red Cross and the Ronald McDonald House. She understands that it takes a team to achieve success, and that’s why she supports his efforts. “He is so benevolent,” she says. “He takes pride in everything he does whether it’s being a husband, an alumnus, or working at Valero.”

UTSA President Ricardo Romo says the Killingers are a wonderful couple who truly understand what the university is trying to achieve. Their unrestricted gift will allow him to immediately respond to opportunities to advance the university’s mission, from travel or conferences for student leaders to faculty recruitment.

“The Killingers get it. They understand our efforts at UTSA to prepare all students to become leaders in their chosen professions. I am extremely proud of Clay and all he has accomplished, and I think him and Cathy for helping other UTSA students become the best they can be,” he says. “Clay is passionate about his alma mater, has a great sense of humor and tells me what he thinks whether I like it or not—and I like that, that’s what a good friend is supposed to do. He has great ideas and vision for inclusive UTSA and is an alumnus our students can exemplify.”
San Antonio Livestock Exposition and UTSA "parden up" for student scholarships

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

If you think the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is only about ropin’, ridin’ broncs and eatin’ corn dogs at the carnival, you’ve got your spurs tangled up some. True, the annual event held for 18 days each February, which attracts more than a million visitors, is a celebration of culture and Texas’ historic ties to the land. But that’s not why the livestock show and rodeo exist.

“The single most important thing, everything we do, has to do with the product. And the product? That’s the kids,” says Richard M. “Tres” Kleberg III, chairman of the board of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition (S.A.L.E.), the organization that runs the show and rodeo.

In fact, the sole mission of S.A.L.E. and the rodeo, Kleberg and others say, is to develop the youth of Texas, with an emphasis on agriculture and education, through a volunteer organization that youth development takes many forms, including raising and showing animals at the livestock show. But perhaps the greatest contribution is what Keith Martin, S.A.L.E.’s executive director and CEO, calls an “educational impact” that packs the punch of an Xtreme Bull ride—$96 million to date through scholarships, grants, endowments and other funding mechanisms.

Martin, who spent 20 years as a stock show and rodeo volunteer before becoming executive director 20 years ago, says the livestock exposition started funding scholarships in 1984 under the leadership of the late, legendary South Texas ranchwoman and civic leader Mary Nan West.

Education, Martin says, as well as making the rodeos a family-friendly event, was a priority for West, who guided the exposition’s board for nearly 20 years. The money S.A.L.E. has generated for education since 1984 includes $40.7 million in the form of scholarships and grants to universities, nearly $56 million in show premiums to youth, more than 5,000 scholarships have been awarded statewide through S.A.L.E.’s educational programs since 1984, and includes $40.7 million in show premiums to youth, more than 5,000 scholarships have been awarded statewide through S.A.L.E.’s educational programs since 1984, and includes $40.7 million in 1984 and has given $130,000 to UTSA each of the past two academic years.

UTSA President Ricardo Romo says that having the exposition is critical to UTSA and its students.

“Supporting education is one of the most important investments we can make in our community, absolutely,” Romo says. “The Stock Show & Rodeo is one of the largest scholarship donors here at UTSA, and we are so grateful for their generosity. What we really need is more organizations in San Antonio and Texas to follow the example they have set and partner with us to help even more students.”

Typically, S.A.L.E.’s scholarship money is not awarded directly to students but to universities or other entities, such as the FFA and 4-H. Recipients must major in some discipline related to agriculture or agricultural business. At UTSA, for example, which has no agriculture school, approved majors include finance, biology, chemistry, biotechnology and biomedical engineering.

“We’re all touched by agriculture,” says board chairman Kleberg. “We don’t eat, breathe or live our daily lives without agricultural involvement. And there’s an expanding view of what agriculture means. It’s not just production. All the life sciences, for example.”

S.A.L.E. scholar and freshman biology major Gabriela Garza says she’s been interested in veterinary medicine for years, but an experience at the 2008 Stock Show & Rodeo cemented her decision.

“I was fortunate to be able to shadow the head vets at the livestock show, and it convinced me I want to be a livestock veterinarian and horse specialist,” Garza says. She plans on studying veterinary medicine after getting her bachelor’s degree from UTSA.

Garza, a Churchill High graduate, comes from a single-parent family, and the $10,000, four-year scholarship from the exposition “lifted a heavy burden from my mom and myself.”

Nick Crain, a UTSA sophomore studying animal science in the Honors College, is another S.A.L.E. scholar. The San Antonio MacArthur High School graduate plans on going to medical school and eventually becoming an anesthesiologist or perhaps a gastroenterologist. He says his $10,000, four-year scholarship from S.A.L.E. has helped tremendously.

““This is paying a huge chunk of my college. If I didn’t have it, there’s a high chance I’d have to work.” Crain says. “That would make it a lot harder to put in the amount of study to keep my GPAs up to what’s needed to get into medical school.” Both students say the scholarships are especially meaningful because they come from a purely volunteer organization.

Executive director Martin and board chairman Kleberg call the $5,000 community volunteers the heart of S.A.L.E.

In addition to putting on the largest junior livestock show in the nation with more than 39,000 entries and hosting the nation’s top indoor rodeo, fundraising events are held year-round to raise money for scholarships, Martin says.

“We have the Go Western Gala, Go Rodeo Roundup, Boots N Shoot, barbecue cook-off, golf tournaments and many others,” Martin says. “The staff and volunteers work hand-in-hand and everyone believes in that mission of developing the youth of Texas.”

Kleberg says he recalls a group of volunteers sitting around a table, asking themselves why they worked so hard on a particular project. “And one says, ‘If you have to ask the question, you won’t understand the answer.’ The answer, he says, always comes down to the kids, some of whom would never have the opportunity to go to college without a S.A.L.E. scholarship.

“There’s nothing in the world,” Kleberg says, “like seeing a kid come back and say, ‘Thank you, thank you for giving me an education, thank you for helping me succeed. Now what can I do?’ That makes everything we do worth every minute.” He said that when he got married, he and wife, Olive Anne, discussed the most important thing they could give their children. After the basics—love, food, shelter—they agreed that education was paramount. And he said he’s grateful the couple’s three children all received a quality education.

“What I do as a volunteer is the exact same thing,” Kleberg says. “All of us at S.A.L.E. have that same sense of appreciation for having the opportunity to do what we do.”

A total of $928,000 has been given since the livestock exposition started awarding scholarship money to UTSA in 1995, and 158 students have benefited. S.A.L.E. has given $130,000 to UTSA each of the past two academic years.
San Antonio couple honors UTSA students with their $7 million trust for undergraduate education

**By Letty Laurel**

**new ties NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Making an Impact

They aren’t UTSA alumni, nor have they ever taught at the university. Puckett and Richardson don’t have children who are Roadrunners. In fact, until 1998, when Puckett was invited to play the piano at a Doctors in Concert performance at the Main Campus, they didn’t have any associations with UTSA. They say they decided to pledge $7 million of their assets to UTSA. They say they decided to pledge $7 million of their estate to a university they don’t have any ties to simply because of UTSA’s promise and the desire to contribute to the city they have lived in for more than 30 years.

“I think that certainly UTSA has the potential to be a great university, and we have seen UTSA in what I would call a relative infancy,” Richardson says. “So we would like to see it grow and prosper and become a great university.”

The best way to grow a strong UTSA workforce is to produce an educated one, they say. Census Bureau data shows that only 23 percent of adults 25 and older in San Antonio have an undergraduate degree, below the national average of 27.4 percent.

“The San Antonio workforce has been somewhat of a problem as best as I can tell because it hasn’t been historically a place where corporations come,” Richardson says. “We see that having a strong school like UTSA could provide that educated workforce, which would propel San Antonio into the forefront of cities around the country and draw businesses to San Antonio. And I think that’s happening.”

While many gifts are geared toward a certain college or discipline, the only restriction on the couple’s gift is that it be used for undergraduate scholarships.

“I don’t think you have to decide you want to be a scientist or engineer, because there are a lot of other areas that you can make an impact in besides science and engineering,” Richardson says. “If some kid wants to go to college and get an education, I don’t care what he wants to be. If that’s his goal to go to college and graduate and go out there and be a productive person, let’s give him that money.”

The No. 1 reason that UTSA students drop out is finances, school officials say. Historically, UTSA is less expensive than other Texas public universities in major metropolitan areas. In 2009, tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate students at UTSA cost a little more than $8,000 for the academic year. Students can expect to add another $1,000 for books annually, plus several thousand dollars more for housing, meals and transportation.

“It’s tougher now than it’s ever been,” Richardson says. When he was an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin in the late ’60s, the main expense was room and board. “To go to school, it was only $50 a semester and you had another $50 for books. So it was dirt cheap, but you still had to live,” he says.

Today, nearly 70 percent of all UTSA students receive some form of financial aid, either through grants, scholarships, loans or work-study jobs. In the 2007–2008 school year, UTSA provided $186.6 million in financial aid. That included $14.5 million in scholarships from private donations, a number that university administrators and Jan Puckett and John Richardson say want to help build.

“So many students have to work to stay in school, and a lot of times you can’t do both and you drop out of school,” Puckett says. “We wanted to give them a chance.”

**DIvEreen Education**

Like most kids, Puckett had definite ideas about what she was going to be when she grew up: she wanted to be a nun or missionary. But by the time she was 8 years old, she knew that her way of helping others was going to be through medicine. And her parents encouraged her along the way, pushing her toward academies at every opportunity.

“My parents instilled [education] in me,” she says. “They gave me the freedom and time. I still can’t cook because my mother said ‘You study, I’ll cook.’”

Intrigued by the mind, Puckett decided to be a psychologist. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 1971, then went to medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. It was there that her passion for learning, and the attraction to immediate results, led her toward anesthesiology. She finished medical school in 1973, and, after a three-year residency, began working at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she stayed from 1978 to 1984. She has been in private practice since.

The strong spirituality she had as a child blended with her fascination of the human mind, and eventually Puckett discovered Buddhism, which she has been studying and practicing for 24 years. “The spiritual part of me always was putting out feelers,” she says. “I have an innate curiosity of the mind. I think everybody has that, but it needs to be fed grow.”

Her husband had his own life plan. Richardson graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1970 with a degree in pharmacy, but quickly decided he wanted to go to medical school. He also attended the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston—he was the one to meet there—where he graduated in 1975. He finished his residency and eventually moved to San Antonio, where he worked in private practice before his current stint at the UT Health Science Center.

Puckett and Richardson say they’re happy to have the opportunity to give to a university with so much promise—and to students who can enrich their lives.

“I’m personally glad that we have this capacity to do something beneficial,” Richardson says. “We feel very fortunate for this opportunity to contribute to our community.”

**Creating a Charitable Remainder Trust**

The charitable remainder trust (CRT), such as the one established by Jan Puckett and John Richardson, represents a present commitment to UTSA, and at the same time provides the donor with a greater capital base and an enhanced stream of income because of tax savings. Most important, the donor has the satisfaction of having made a meaningful gift during his or her lifetime and the recognition as a benefactor of the favored charity. UTSA, or the donor’s favored charity, has the benefit of the present value of the gift, which will vest at a pre-dictable future time.

In exchange for a gift of cash or property to a charitable remainder trust, the donor receives cash payments, representing a percentage of the value of the gifted asset, for a fixed number of years or even for the lifetime of the donor, the donor’s spouse, or even the donor’s children. Afterwards, all remaining funds in the trust go to UTSA, or any other named charity. Though this trust is irrevocable, the donor may change the charitable beneficiary in case his or her charitable goals change.

A charitable tax advantage allows the CRT to sell appreciated assets without paying tax on the gain, as would be the case if the donor had made the sale. This is especially useful where a donor intends to sell an appreciated asset—such as real estate or a business interest. The sale through the tax-exempt CRT allows the donor to create more current cash flow by avoiding the tax on the sale.

Establishing a CRT makes more than good financial sense. It is a way to create a legacy.

Carolyn Lowery, the director of planned giving at UTSA, would be pleased to meet with you and your professional advisers to explore whether a CRT with UTSA would work for you. Carolyn and her UTSA staff have the support of normally interested private practitioners and other entities like trust officers, attorneys, certified public accountants and a certified life insurance agent, to help you establish a giving plan at UTSA that would best fit your goals. You can reach Carolyn Lowery at (210) 458-4154. She will welcome your call.
Helen Keller’s biography and even checked out books on Braille from the library. "It wasn’t until later that we realized she’d been visually impaired. Shortly after her birth on March 12, 1962, Dianna Tidwell was diagnosed with cataracts. Doctors told her family that she would be severely visually impaired. Six-year-old Michael Tidwell reasoned that if his little sister would be blind, he would need to make an extra effort to reach out to her. He read Helen Keller’s biography and even checked out books on Braille from the library. "It wasn’t until later that we realized she’d never develop the mental capacity to learn to read," says Michael Tidwell. 77. In 1996, Tidwell, who graduated with a B.A. in political science and served as UTSA’s first student body president, established an endowed scholarship in Dianna’s name. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student in the College of Education and Human Development who is committed to serving special needs students like his sister. "I thought about how much Dianna’s life had been enriched by the fact that she had very good special education teachers," he says. "I understand how beneficial it can be to families to have the challenged family member get as much education and training as they can. That gives them the best chance to live a quality life.” Because their mother had contracted German measles during her pregnancy, Dianna suffered a number of congenital defects. Early on, doctors realized she was mentally retarded; in fact, she never progressed cognitively beyond the age of 3 or 4, Tidwell says. When Dianna was a year old, the Tidwells discovered she had epilepsy. As she got older, Dianna was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which eventually rendered her unable to walk on her own. And she developed a swallowing disorder, which had to be treated with a tracheostomy after she came close to choking to death several times. But even as Dianna’s health problems continued to reveal themselves, her family just adapted to her conditions. Tidwell says, And, he adds, Dianna’s life was good. "Dianna lived to 33, but we had 33 very good years, and a lot of that had to do with the fact that she had access to education,” Tidwell says. In 1996, one year after his sister died, Tidwell established the Dianna Lynn Tidwell Endowed Scholarship Fund, which he continues to contribute to monthly. Amanda Wolfe ‘69 received the annual scholarship in 2007. She now is a fourth grade teacher at Carroll Bell Elementary in San Antonio’s Harlandale Independent School District. Because she’s certified in special education, she works daily with the school’s special needs students who function at the fourth-grade level when they come to her classroom for science and social studies lessons. Wolfe believes becoming a teacher is a calling and says that’s especially true for those who were inspired to teach because of a personal experience. "You have to have the patience and the heart for it. For none of us. Wolfe says. "It’s extremely rewarding to see their improvement.” Her benefactor agrees. "It takes a very special motivation to work with children who are the most challenging to educate,” Tidwell says. "Unless you’re in that situation, you can’t really appreciate how valuable special education teachers are and how much value they bring to the lives of students with severe challenges.,” —Michael Tidwell ’77

BY REBECCA LUTHER

The fifth in a family of six children growing up on San Antonio’s East Side, Dianna—who had picked up the nickname "Nayna" from her family—played with all the other kids on the street just like her siblings did, and was welcomed in all of the neighbors’ homes. Before she had the tracheostomy in her teenage years, Dianna was "very verbal," her brother notes, and even after the tracheostomy was still able to communicate her needs and wishes to her family. One of her frequent requests was for big brother Michael to put on a puppet show for her with her Kermit the Frog and other Sesame Street puppets. "She was the storyteller, and Dianna loved for me to work the puppets for her," Tidwell says. "It always ended in some sort of fisticuffs; she liked seeing one puppet get the best of another one. "One of the beauties of her condition was she never progressed cognitively beyond the age of 3 or 4, Tidwell says. When Dianna was a year old, the Tidwells discovered she had epilepsy. As she got older, Dianna was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which eventually rendered her unable to walk on her own. And she developed a swallowing disorder, which had to be treated with a tracheostomy after she came close to choking to death several times. But even as Dianna’s health problems continued to reveal themselves, her family just adapted to her conditions. Tidwell says, And, he adds, Dianna’s life was good. "Dianna lived to 33, but we had 33 very good years, and a lot of that had to do with the fact that she had access to education,” Tidwell says. In 1996, one year after his sister died, Tidwell established the Dianna Lynn Tidwell Endowed Scholarship Fund, which he continues to contribute to monthly. Amanda Wolfe ‘69 received the annual scholarship in 2007. She now is a fourth grade teacher at Carroll Bell Elementary in San Antonio’s Harlandale Independent School District. Because she’s certified in special education, she works daily with the school’s special needs students who function at the fourth-grade level when they come to her classroom for science and social studies lessons. Wolfe believes becoming a teacher is a calling and says that’s especially true for those who were inspired to teach because of a personal experience. "You have to have the patience and the heart for it. For none of us. Wolfe says. "It’s extremely rewarding to see their improvement.” Her benefactor agrees. "It takes a very special motivation to work with children who are the most challenging to educate,” Tidwell says. "Unless you’re in that situation, you can’t really appreciate how valuable special education teachers are and how much value they bring to the lives of students with severe challenges.,” —Michael Tidwell ’77

CREATING AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship Michael Tidwell established in memory of his sister Dianna is one of more than 200 endowed scholarships at UTSA. Unlike annual scholarships, endowed scholarships exist in perpetuity. The total amount of the scholarship gift is invested; each year, only a portion of the interest is awarded while the original principal remains invested. Endowed scholarship awards are ideal for those who wish to create a lasting legacy. At UTSA, endowed scholarships can be created for $25,000 (minimum investment as of 2009), and this can be paid over five years. Michael Tidwell funded Dianna’s scholarship over five years, and now he continues to add to the principal of the endowment by making automatic monthly contributions. These payments are all tax-deductible. "I had to give a message to people thinking whether they could do what I’m doing. I would emphasize how easy it is,” Tidwell says, "If people were committed, they could do it over time. They could do it in a painless way. "I had a very strong motivation, but anybody who’s benefited from UTSA ought to be motivated to give back," he says. "If you believe in everyone contributing to society to make it better, this is a great opportunity to do it.”

"Unless you’re in that situation, you can’t really appreciate how valuable special education teachers are and how much value they bring to the lives of students with severe challenges.” —Michael Tidwell ’77
34% Research Expenditures
UTSA reported a 34% increase in research spending and 30% increase in total research and sponsored program expenditures over the last fiscal year.

70% Student Financial Aid
Nearly 70% of all UTSA students receive financial aid. In 2007-2008 school year, UTSA gave out $186.6 million in financial aid.

34% increase
in total research and sponsored program expenditures

On track for Tier One
UTSA reported a 34% increase in sponsored program expenditures and matching funding from the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP).

$186.6 M
Student Financial Aid

50%
Institution

Donated Amounts

($ in millions)

Texas Tech
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at El Paso
University of North Texas
University of Texas at Arlington

Donated Amounts
($ in millions)

Texas Tech
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at Austin

Affordable Matches
($ in millions)

Texas Tech
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at Austin

Tough fiscal year for Tier One universities.

SOMBRILLA Society
The Sombrilla Society is composed of friends who have included the University in their estate plans through bequest, trust, gift annuity, life insurance or other means.

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The Lone Star Society comprises individuals, corporations, foundations and other entities whose cumulative gifts to the University total $500,000 or greater.

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Anonymously
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The President’s Associates make unrestricted annual gifts of $1,000 or more, allowing President Ricardo Romo to leverage special opportunities that enhance the University’s mission.

This list includes those who have contributed since Sept. 1, 2009.

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