



SANTA RITA AWARD CEREMONY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

2010

The University of Texas System Board of Regents

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
MRS. RITA CROCKER CLEMENTS

Recipients of the Santa Rita Award

Presented
February 04, 2010

SANTA RITA AWARD PROGRAM

February 04, 2010

IN HONOR OF

GOVERNOR WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR. AND MRS. RITA CROCKER CLEMENTS

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RECEPTION

WELCOME

Chairman James R. Huffines
The University of Texas System Board of Regents

INTRODUCTIONS

Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa
The University of Texas System

DINNER

PROGRAM

Chairman James R. Huffines (*Master of Ceremonies*)

Mr. Peter O'Donnell

Chairman James R. Huffines

Honorees

CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman James R. Huffines



THE HONORABLE WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.



PERHAPS it is his devotion to public service. Perhaps it is his personal love of reading. Perhaps it is his passion for Texas history. Perhaps it is his commitment to excellence in every endeavor. Whatever the reason—or reasons—Governor William P. Clements, Jr., the 22nd recipient of the Santa Rita Award, has transformed higher education in the State of Texas with his bold leadership and his extraordinary philanthropy.

One example of his enduring legacy is the Bill and Rita Clements Advanced Medical Imaging Building on The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas campus that houses some of the world's most sophisticated equipment for the development of new diagnostic tests and treatments for neurological and metabolic illnesses. The gifts of the Governor and Mrs. Clements to U. T. Southwestern – Dallas over the years exponentially improve the opportunities for medical training and research on the campus and in so doing dramatically improve the quality and depth of health care for Texans today and tomorrow.

Another example of the unrivaled contribution to higher education of Governor Clements might be the eponymous research center at Southern Methodist University dedicated to advancing scholarship in the study of the American Southwest and the borderlands. The Clements Center for Southwest Studies as well as the creation of a Ph.D. program in the History Department reflect the Governor's passionate enthusiasm for furthering the scholarly understanding of the region. An inimitable passion for learning might also explain the Governor's support of Southern Methodist University's acquisition and operation of a summer campus in New Mexico.

Governor Clements, the founder of SEDCO, one of the world's largest drilling contractors, has a well deserved reputation for tenacity, strategic planning, and action. He was U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense and served twice as Governor of Texas, the first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

The Governor's Task Force on Higher Education transformed the U. T. System by bringing all institutions at the time under the umbrella of the Permanent University Fund; by expanding the Fund's bonding authority; and by establishing a capital fund for non-PUF institutions known as the Higher Education Assistance Fund. He also introduced accountability to State government long before the word became commonplace. He urged caution in preparing for an uncertain future and – thanks to his assertive and visionary leadership – a solid foundation on which to build higher education was put in place during his administrations. The U. T. System institutions continue to benefit from his insistence on strategic planning and cost effectiveness.

As Governor, Clements influenced the State of Texas by making thousands of appointments of men and women of ability and integrity who guided the executive branch for more than a decade. He appointed the first two women to serve on the Texas Supreme Court and, in appointing Lewis Sturns to the Court of Criminal Appeals, he appointed the first African-American statewide officeholder in 100 years. Governor Clements also appointed a dozen powerful and effective Regents to the U. T. System Board who made profound and long-lasting contributions that benefit the System to this day.

The Governor's inspirational leadership invariably serves as a catalyst to create a feeling of purpose and to unite people in working toward common goals. Governor Clements knows how to influence public opinion and he knows how to influence public policy. He has yielded his influence to ensure that higher education in Texas continues to flourish into the future. When asked why he was so committed to public service, Governor Clements once explained: "I was born and raised in Dallas. The people that I respected and the people that the community recognized were people who involved themselves in the community and gave not only of themselves but of their money, their talents, and their resources. Why do these people do these things? It's because we want a better community. And it's very much a part of what makes Dallas, Dallas."

...and giving of himself is very much a part of what makes Governor Clements, Governor Clements.

MRS. RITA CROCKER CLEMENTS



MRS. RITA CROCKER CLEMENTS has used all of her considerable talent in support of education in the State of Texas. She's a dynamic speaker, an extraordinary organizer, a shrewd analyst, a visionary leader, an exemplary philanthropist, and a compelling consensus-maker. She has been a tireless advocate for U. T. System institutions and walked the campuses to absorb their distinct academic milieus so that she can ensure mission statements are fulfilled and goals are achieved. In recognition of her decades of meaningful contributions to higher education in the state and to her unparalleled commitment to enhancing The University of Texas System, the Board of Regents recognizes Mrs. Rita Crocker Clements with the Santa Rita award.

Her connection to The University of Texas System started in her college days when she graduated cum laude from The University of Texas at Austin with a major in Spanish and minors in history and government. As a devoted alumna, Mrs. Clements has served on the External Relations Task Force of the Centennial Commission at U. T. Austin as well as on the Executive Council of the University's Ex-Students' Association and the Liberal Arts Foundation Advisory Council.

Governor George W. Bush appointed Mrs. Clements to the U. T. System Board of Regents in November 1996. Within a year of her appointment, Mrs. Clements was unanimously elected Vice Chairman of the Board. She was reappointed by Governor Rick Perry and her drive and vision provided inspirational leadership for over a decade.

Her accomplishments are many and varied. In 1998 Vice Chairman Clements sponsored a resolution that paid tribute to the responsibilities of higher education in the training of public school teachers. In effectively voicing the Board's commitment to a central and continuing role in helping all Texas children learn to read, she made a profound and long-lasting difference in countless lives.

As Chairman of the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee, Vice Chairman Clements ensured that each institution developed a comprehensive architectural master plan reflecting its unique circumstances and needs. This ambitious undertaking recognized the distinct character of each campus and fostered the creation of an appropriate "academic village" atmosphere so essential to successful teaching and learning. The master plans approved during her term on the Board continue to facilitate reasoned and intelligent campus development. In fact, the beautifully produced coffee table book of executive summaries of these master plans published under the oversight of Vice Chairman Clements is still considered essential reading to new Regents.

Her legacy as Facilities Planning Committee Chairman is also evident in the 240 building projects – or 24.75 million square feet of space – approved during her term of service. Her dedication to architectural integrity ensured development that was consistent with the existing campus structures and appropriate for the intended purpose. Her diligence in campus planning exemplifies how one visionary can transform an entire institution of higher education.

Convinced that Texas and Texans benefit from having prestigious medical institutions, Mrs. Clements was also a strong advocate for medical research when on the Board. As Chairman of the Health Affairs Committee, Vice Chairman Clements recognized the critical role that U. T. System medical institutions play in treating patients and in doing research. Vice Chairman Clements also understood the importance to all Texans of the high quality education U. T. medical schools provide to future health care professionals and she worked tirelessly in support of medical institutions.

Since leaving the U. T. System Board, Mrs. Clements has continued to generate public awareness of the value of medical schools to the State of Texas. She has been a strong supporter of U. T. Southwestern Medical Center - Dallas and has made it known that it always will be in the forefront of bringing more industry, more research, and more private biotech firms to the city. Her unparalleled support of U. T. Southwestern has enabled achievements and ambitions beyond already high expectations for the medical research center and has brought tremendous prestige to the U. T. System.

The University of Texas System would not be what it is today without the contributions of Mrs. Rita Crocker Clements, and the Santa Rita Award is in appreciation of her exceptional service.

SANTA RITA

The Award. The Discovery.

The Santa Rita Award is a Systemwide award that may be made annually to a limited number of individuals who have made valuable contributions over an extended period to The University of Texas System in its development efforts. The recipient may be judged on his or her demonstrated concern for the principles of higher education, as well as a deep commitment to furtherance of the purposes and objectives of The University of Texas System.

PARTICIPATION by the recipient in affairs of the System shall be of such character as to serve as a high example of public-spirited service. Of particular interest will be the extent to which such individual activity may have generated similar attitudes from other public and private areas toward the University System.

The award shall be made on behalf of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System. Dr. H. F. Connally, Jr., of Waco, a former Regent, conceived the idea of the Santa Rita Award and financed its implementation.

The Santa Rita No. 1



DOLPH BRISQOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, U.T. AUSTIN

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, May 27, 1923, Carl Cromwell and his tool dresser, Dee Locklin, were cleaning out the shaft of the Santa Rita exploratory well with the bailer. They had by then drilled to a depth of 3,055 feet.

Cromwell had been employed as the driller of the well two years earlier when he, his wife, and small daughter moved to the drilling site in desolate Reagan County. The drilling had been slow. If a part needed replacement, everything had to be shut down for weeks until the new part arrived. Other men had been hired to help with the operation, but the barren isolation of the region often drove them away.

Two years was a long time for a man and his family to live in desert country beside a rusty railroad, pecking a hole in the rocks in search of oil. That may have been in the back of Cromwell's mind as he and his helper hauled the bailer to the surface on that Sunday afternoon. The sense of excitement must have been electric when they saw that the material brought up in the bailer had a little showing of oil. Quickly, they lowered the bailer again, and again, finding more traces of oil.

Frank Pickrell and his partner, Haymon Krupp, both from El Paso, had purchased 171 applications for mineral exploration permits on 431,360 acres of University of Texas land in Crockett, Irion, Reagan and Upton counties from a young Reagan County lawyer named Rupert P. Ricker in 1919.

Three years earlier, a University of Texas geologist, Dr. Johan Udden, submitted to the Board of Regents a report on the probable and potential minerals in the University land in that area. Pickrell obtained a copy of the report, which he studied and found convincing. He painstakingly prepared and filed those 171 applications in the respective counties.

When he discovered that he was required to pay an advance one-year rental fee of ten cents per acre (a total of \$43,136) to the Texas General Land Office — and being unable to raise that amount of money — he sold his applications to Pickrell and Krupp for \$500, giving them a quitclaim on any interests that he might have.

With time running out on the Ricker applications, Pickrell filed a new set, and paid the \$43,136 rental fee. The new 171 permits would expire two years later, at midnight on January 8, 1921.

Pickrell and Krupp spent most of those two years in an effort to finance the project. Krupp first tried to arrange with a major oil company on a share-and-share deal. Failing in that, the partners decided to form a subsidiary company in New Jersey named the Group One Oil Corporation, in which they sold “participating certificates.” A group of Catholic women were persuaded to purchase some of those certificates.

Pickrell secured an old water well drilling machine in San Angelo and had shipped it, together with a team of horses and a wagon, via train to a siding four miles from the predetermined drilling location. The machinery was unloaded, hauled to the well site and put in operation by 8:00 p.m. on January 8, 1921 — four hours before the drilling permits were to expire.

A few months later, the Catholic women became anxious about their investment and consulted their priest, who advised them to invoke the aid of Santa Rita, the Patron Saint of the Impossible. At their request, Pickrell christened the well Santa Rita, sprinkling the petals of a red rose over the derrick.



The Santa Rita Medallion

And now, on that site, two long years later, Carl Cromwell and his tool dresser pulled the bailer to the surface for the last time that day and could scarcely believe what they saw. It was filled with oil. They decided to tell no one. They built a trap door to close the hole, and boarded up the bottom of the derrick.

The next morning, May 28, 1923, Mrs. Cromwell heard a hissing noise as she was preparing breakfast for her husband and little daughter. The noise sounded like a rattlesnake at the doorstep of the driller’s shack and it sent the Cromwells rushing outside of their small house. A cloud of gas and oil was rising to the top of the derrick. Carl Cromwell looked up in great astonishment as a shower of crude oil suddenly sprayed skyward. He had witnessed the birth of a million-dollar baby.

Santa Rita, the first of the University’s oil wells, had come in.

Money from the oil produced by that well and thousands of succeeding wells on university land forms much of the multibillion-dollar Permanent University Fund of The University of Texas System.

The men who were responsible for finding, financing and drilling this well shared some traits of character with those, who, decades later, would receive the Santa Rita Award — grit, faith, persistence, and a strong desire to bring about what some would label “the impossible.”



PAST RECIPIENTS



MISS IMA HOGG — 1968

She carried on a family tradition of furthering education at all levels. She was distinctly concerned with human welfare and conceived the idea that resulted in the Will C. Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, headquarters of which are at U. T. Austin. Funds from the estate of Miss Hogg continue to contribute heavily to the Foundation. Another of her prime interests was in preservation of the best of the American past. She restored the last home of her father, the Varner-Hogg Plantation, and gave it to the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Another of her family's famous homes, Bayou Bend in Houston, was given to the Houston Fine Arts Association. In 1967, she gave the University the Winedale Inn Properties, a recreated portion of early Texas, which is located near Round Top.



EUGENE McDERMOTT — 1969

A co-founder of the educational center which became the basis of U. T. Dallas, his gifts include the library building at U. T. Dallas and funding for the Dobie Paisano Project at U. T. Austin. His gifts to the U. T. Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas include the Administration Building and Center Plaza, a chair in Human Growth and Development, a chair in Anesthesiology (that honors his wife), and a fund for a program in cellular research. In addition, he provided long-time service as a trustee of Southwestern Medical Foundation, the founding body of the U. T. Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas and a source of supplemental funding for that school. In 1974, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System established the first System chair in Mr. McDermott's honor.



HINES H. BAKER — 1969

Founder and first chairman of the U. T. Austin Development Board, he was also a founder of The University of Texas Law School Foundation, the Chancellor's Council, the board of the Texas Medical Center, and the University Cancer Foundation. He was an early president of the U. T. Ex-Students' Association and a recipient of its Distinguished Alumnus Award. Gifts to U. T. Austin include a professorship in law given by Mr. Baker and his wife.



HARRY HUNTT RANSOM — 1971

Teacher, dean, provost, president of U. T. Austin and chancellor and chancellor-emeritus of The University of Texas System, Dr. Ransom was the man responsible for the enormous acquisition of Special Collections for the U. T. Austin Library. He established the *Texas Quarterly* and founded the Humanities Research Center on the U. T. Austin campus. He was president of the Southern Universities Conference, chairman of the Southern Association Executive Committee, and chairman of the Historical Commission of Copyright League. He served with distinction on Presidential Commissions for White House Fellows, Government Organization, U.S. Libraries, and the Patent System. He was trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, president of the Texas Philosophical Society, and president of the Texas Institute of Letters.



CECIL H. GREEN — 1973

A co-founder of the educational center that became U. T. Dallas, and a trustee of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, Mr. Green's services and gifts were bountiful. Among his gifts are the Green Center and the Cecil H. & Ida M. Green Honors Chair in Natural Sciences at U. T. Dallas. To U. T. Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas, he gave the Cecil H. & Ida Green Science Building and a chair in reproductive biology, as well as basic support for its family planning program. The Greens gave a chair in marine science and provided the Ida Green, an oceangoing vessel for geophysical research at the U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston. He was instrumental in establishing The Association for Graduate Education and Research (TAGER) with its educational television network for universities and industries in the North Texas area.



JOHN W. McCULLOUGH — 1974

To a large degree, the U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston became an outstanding institution because of The Sealy & Smith Foundation, of which John W. McCullough was president. From the time he became associated with the Foundation in 1963, he was a driving force behind the munificence of the Foundation, being ever aware of the needs of the Medical Branch. Appointed in 1957 by the Board of Regents, he served outstandingly as a member of the Committee of 75 to examine the mission of The University of Texas at Austin that set its goals for the next 25 years.



JOHN H. FREEMAN — 1975

As a leader among his colleagues, he represented the true and invaluable spirit of private philanthropy working in concert with public financial sources to bring to the people of Texas institutions recognized worldwide for education, research, and service. In addition to his own personal contributions through the years, Mr. Freeman and his Houston associates made a substantial effort to bring to reality worthwhile ideas envisioned for an ever-changing, progressive community. When the 47th Legislature authorized The University of Texas Board of Regents to create a cancer research hospital for Texas on June 30, 1941, Mr. Freeman and his fellow trustees of the M.D. Anderson Foundation began a relationship with The University of Texas that has played a major role in the establishment and growth of the Texas Medical Center.



MARY MOODY NORTHEN — 1976

In 1954, this remarkable woman became the chairman of the Moody Foundation, one of the largest private philanthropic organizations in the United States. Since 1960, the Foundation has contributed substantial sums to causes throughout the state, with the U. T. System and U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston in particular having benefited greatly. Specific gifts include the Moody Medical Library, the Marine Biomedical Institute, awards to numerous departments, and support for research and scholarship. Her unusual business genius was combined with a deep sense of obligation to provide for the future through improvements, research, and historical preservation.



JOHN ERIK JONSSON — 1977

A co-founder of the educational center that became the basis of U. T. Dallas, Mr. Jonsson's contributions to the city of Dallas are many. He served not only as mayor, but also as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Citizens Council, and United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. He was a prime mover in the development of the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Airport and the initiator of Goals for Dallas. Erik and Margaret Jonsson's finely honed interests extended into all levels of education. During his presidency, the Excellence in Education Foundation made a gift of 500 acres adjacent to U. T. Dallas and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders. His extraordinary vision and insight nurtured higher education to meet the challenges and opportunities of the technological age. The Jonssons' personal generosity also greatly benefited the U. T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and the Southwestern Medical Foundation. They endowed the Paul J. Thomas Chair in Internal Medicine and the Alvin W. Baldwin, Jr. Chair in Surgery, along with additional funds to support such activities as the Philip R. Jonsson Basic Science Research Center and extensive landscaping of the Center's campus.



WILLIAM P. HOBBY, JR. — 1985

The career of William Pettus Hobby, Jr., spans many years of service in diverse ways: as naval officer, journalist, parliamentary expert, governmental policymaker, university regent, lieutenant governor of Texas, and chancellor of the University of Houston System. It was in his role as lieutenant governor that Bill Hobby, widely respected for his integrity, fairness, and proven legislative ability, made his deepest imprint on the history of Texas. As one newspaper columnist put it, he presided over the Texas Senate for so many years and with such distinction that his name was "synonymous with the post." His years as lieutenant governor encompassed an enduring period of progress for higher education. For the U. T. System in particular, it was a time of unparalleled success, due in large measure to the unwavering support of Bill Hobby. Lieutenant Governor Hobby was in the vanguard of those who recognized that the expansion of educational opportunity is the key to the continued economic health of Texas.



PETER O'DONNELL, JR. — 1986

For decades Peter O'Donnell, Jr. has actively contributed to the pursuit of excellence in our primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. Believing the mind to be the ultimate resource, he carefully seeks out creative, talented people doing work that promises to have long-range benefits for the health and economic well being of Texas. He established goals that he personally and the O'Donnell Foundation would pursue: help recruit and retain distinguished faculty; build an excellent research university at U. T. Austin; construct a medical school without equal at the U. T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; and strengthen science and engineering programs throughout the U. T. System. Above all, he believes that we must create a climate of opinion in which education is prized and its faculty respected. That these goals are widely shared, and that we are on the road to fulfilling them, are testimony to Peter O'Donnell's dedication.



LARRY TEMPLE — 1989

During the 1980s, Larry Temple came to stand for excellence, dedication, and prudence in preserving and enhancing educational programs and the quality of life for our faculty, students, and staff, from those in vocational schools to those in the advanced research laboratories. Mr. Temple chaired the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from 1983 to 1987 as well as the Select Committee on Higher Education from 1985 to 1986. He became a key figure in the passage of the landmark Higher Education Assistance Act constitutional amendment in 1984 and in the passage of House Bill 2181 in 1987. From these legislative acts and from the work of the Select Committee emerged proposals that have become the blueprint for our future and will serve to improve the lives of Texans for generations to come. In days when wisdom seemed likely to fall prey to expediency, Larry Temple was there to remind us that our universities are more than buildings and equipment. As one anecdote rightly has it, governors, lieutenant governors, and legislators come and go, but there is always Larry Temple, calmly urging the higher purpose.



JESS HAY — 1991

Appointed to the U. T. System Board of Regents in 1977, Jess Hay became perhaps the most powerfully persuasive spokesman that the U. T. System and higher education in Texas have yet known. Those who have experienced Mr. Hay's combination of budget wizardry, planning expertise, and tenacity at work speak of having been on a "Hay Ride." Mr. Hay's contributions to the financial well-being of the U. T. System, to long-term planning, and to nurturing ties with the greater community were formally recognized in his unanimous election as chairman of the Board of Regents in February of 1985. In the mid-1980s, Mr. Hay organized the Friends of Education, stressing the vital linkage between education and the well-being of society. Led by his reasoned and eloquent voice, the "Friends" convinced their fellow citizens that "Texas is Worth the Money." The 70th Legislature restored the budget cuts of 1985, increased the funding for higher education, and reaffirmed Texas' long-standing commitment to excellence in higher education.



JACK S. BLANTON — 1996

For nearly five decades, Jack S. Blanton has, quietly and without fanfare, brought people together, inspired them to pull together, and, in turn, has enriched the public life of Houston and of the State of Texas. To schools and libraries, museums and orchestras, to charitable organizations and hospitals, and to civic and religious groups, Mr. Blanton has given tirelessly of his resources and of himself. It is to the cause of higher education, however, that Mr. Blanton has made his greatest contributions. Since his days as an undergraduate, Jack Blanton has had an unabashed love affair with U. T. Austin. A past president of the Ex-Students' Association, Mr. Blanton served on the Centennial Commission, the Development Board, the Littlefield Society, and the Executive Committee of The Chancellor's Council. In 1985, Governor Mark White appointed Mr. Blanton to the U. T. System Board of Regents. He became chairman in 1987. From this position of leadership, he ensured support for higher education during one of the worst financial crises in the state's history.



BOB BULLOCK — 1996

Considered one of the most influential Texas political leaders of the 20th Century, Bob Bullock is often compared to House Speaker Sam Rayburn and President Lyndon B. Johnson. He was a legendary public official noted for his extraordinary political abilities and legislative skills. His public career spanned more than 40 years, and he was considered a principal architect of modern Texas government. He served in the Texas Legislature, as secretary of state, comptroller, and as lieutenant governor. He was a leader in the successful effort to revamp the State's education funding system and provided critical support to the South Texas/Border Initiative, bringing an unprecedented investment of over \$500 million in higher education resources to previously underserved areas. Governor Bullock's statesmanlike leadership brought diverse groups together in productive collaborations. He searched tirelessly for workable solutions, insisting always on serving the interest of Texas and its present and future generations of young people. Most of all, Bullock's work was driven by his love for Texas — summed up in his trademark line, "God bless Texas."



PETER T. FLAWN — 2000

As an administrator and as an educational leader, Peter T. Flawn combined in remarkable degree the dual capacity to concern himself with the day-to-day details of administration while keeping his eye on the far horizon. As the first president of U. T. San Antonio, president of U. T. Austin, and later president (ad interim) at U. T. Austin, Flawn established a standard of quality by which others were to be judged, and he summoned faculty, staff, students and the community to a comradeship in the pursuit of excellence. Flawn was a great founding president and centennial president and proved to be an indispensable interim president. He received the first Distinguished Service Award given by the Texas Exes to persons who have contributed to the university in a significant way, but who did not graduate from it.



WALES H. MADDEN, JR. — 2002

Lawyer, higher-education proponent, philanthropist, and civic leader, Wales Madden, Jr. graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in 1950 and an LLB from the U. T. Austin Law School in 1952. After several years of private practice and work for the Shamrock Oil and Gas Corporation in Amarillo, where he and his wife reared two children, Madden was appointed to the U. T. System Board of Regents in 1959 by Governor Price Daniel. At 31, he was the youngest Regent ever appointed. Madden has also served as a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Board of Visitors of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and as chair of the U. T. System's Chancellor's Council. Madden and his family have made bequests to a wide range of programs at U. T. Austin, including law, architecture, communication, fine arts, liberal arts, natural sciences, public affairs, the Graduate School, the Humanities Research Center, the U. T. Press, men's and women's athletics, and student financial aid.



MARGARET MILAM McDERMOTT — 2004

The legendary vision and remarkable commitment of Margaret Milam McDermott have benefited Texas cultural institutions such as the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. Mrs. McDermott's dedication to The University of Texas System includes active involvement on boards and generous financial support for buildings and endowments. Her gifts to U. T. Austin, where she is a Life Member of the Development Board, include the establishment of 16 endowments. The involvement of Mrs. McDermott and the McDermott family with U. T. Southwestern Medical Center – Dallas began in 1956 and has touched almost every building and center on that campus. Her gifts to U. T. Dallas include funding for the historic gift to establish the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program and an endowment to keep fresh orchids in the main entrance of the McDermott Library. Her husband Eugene McDermott received the Santa Rita Award in 1969.



FRANK DENIUS — 2007

When pressed, Frank Denius will tell you he's an energetic, disciplined, and loyal person. His unstinting dedication to The University of Texas at Austin includes tenure as president of the Texas Exes and serving on the U. T. Austin Development Board, the Centennial Commission, the Executive Council of the "We're Texas" Campaign, and the Commission of 125. He received U. T. Austin's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991 and was recognized with the Presidential Citation at U. T. Austin in 2005. Mr. Denius plays a vital role in the Effie and Wofford Cain Foundation, established by his aunt and uncle to benefit the State of Texas. Under his visionary leadership, the Cain Foundation endowed disease research at U. T. Health Science Center – Tyler, supported a mobility center and Alzheimer's research at U. T. Southwestern Medical Center – Dallas, and funded a veterans' memorial plaza at U. T. Austin. And all the while, Mr. Denius managed to attend almost every Longhorn football practice and game.



BERNARD RAPOPORT — 2008

Bernard Rapoport doesn't merely profess a desire for a better world, he's spent much of his life and fortune insisting on it. After graduating from U.T. Austin with a degree in economics, Mr. Rapoport went on to co-found the American Income Life Insurance Company, and over the years has given generously to U. T. Austin, U. T. San Antonio, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center - Dallas and U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He served on the Board of Regents from 1991 to 1997, finishing the last four years of his term as chairman. He has also served on the Chancellor's Council Executive Committee, the Commission of 125, and the "We're Texas" Campaign Executive Council. His support of education and the community has established Mr. Rapoport as one of the nation's greatest modern philanthropists.



THE HONORABLE DOLPH BRISCOE, JR. — 2009

Dolph Briscoe, Jr. is the quintessential Texan who represents the very best this great state has to offer. Whether talking about his business activities, his decades of public service, or his ranching life, an unqualified dedication to honesty and respectability characterizes Dolph Briscoe, Jr.

Born to a ranching family in 1923, Dolph Briscoe’s father insisted he attend The University of Texas at Austin. He not only received an excellent education, he also met his future wife, Betty Janey Slaughter, on campus.

After a tour of duty in the armed forces, Dolph Briscoe dedicated himself to public life. His influence during four terms in the Texas House of Representatives would improve the State of Texas in meaningful and long-lasting ways. In 1972, Dolph Briscoe successfully ran for Governor and worked tirelessly to improve education in the State of Texas.

Since leaving public office, Governor Briscoe has remained devoted to improving the State. His Texas-sized philanthropy includes significant donations to The University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio and transformational gifts to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin.

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