
The Michael and Tami Lang Stuttering Institute Gives a Voice to Those Who Stutter
Texas Leader magazine is aptly named. The faces and voices in these pages belong to leaders. They belong to the people who give of themselves to guarantee that The University of Texas at Austin continues to have the greatest impact on students, on innovation, and on the world.

Since I became president in June, I have met with many of you — our alumni and friends — and I am inspired by your dedication. Your trust and investment allows us to pursue goals that elevate this university. These include:

- More closely integrating teaching and research to enhance the value of an undergraduate education and enrich our research capacity
- Breaking down the walls that sometimes separate academic disciplines and supporting collaboration that spurs a new era of discovery and innovation
- Ensuring our status as the institution where Texas educates its next generation of leaders
- And rethinking healthcare with the opening of the Dell Medical School.

These are ambitious goals, but with leaders like you, we can and will achieve them. This issue of Texas Leader focuses on ways you can invest in our students, our professors, or even the programs that made a difference in your life. We also discuss assets that can be used to support UT Austin, including donations of land and minerals and various charitable trust arrangements.

We have found some truly inspiring examples of giving. With their generosity and insight, Michael and Tami Lang helped create the Lang Stuttering Institute in the Moody College of Communication. Bob and Linda Hinkel made a gift to expand the faculty and drilling labs in our top-ranked Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering. And the story of the late Jack and Katie Jackson shows what education makes possible. The land and mineral interests that made Jack a legend established one of the country’s finest schools of geoscience.

The breadth and depth of our university are remarkable, but it is the people who give back that assure our future of true excellence. Thank you for your support.

Gregory L. Fenves
President
Energy Wise
How one donor’s trust is fueling the technology revolution
BY SHARON REYNOLDS

After studying civil and aerospace engineering at Cornell University for three years during the 1970s, Robert Hinkel ran short of funds. He decided to put schooling on hold and took a job in the oil industry as a drilling fluids engineer. It was this experience in the field that inspired him to return to school to pursue a petroleum engineering degree. Though he applied to and was accepted by four universities, ultimately he was drawn to the quality of The University of Texas at Austin’s petroleum engineering program.

In a matter of months, Hinkel and his wife, Linda, packed up their van and headed to the Forty Acres. While on campus, he studied and earned money by tutoring and grading papers for his professors. Linda ran the state’s Home Energy Assistance Program under Governor Ann Richards, earning a letter of commendation, and she later worked as a social security administrator.

These were good times, he says, and his UT Austin education would shape his career. He learned about field operations through his work experience in the oil and gas industry, but UT’s expert educators and mentors helped bring it all together for him. “Coming to UT Austin and learning the engineering principles behind the technology in the field gave me a whole different perspective. I understood how to apply that technology and take it to the next level.”

In 1982, Hinkel graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering and took a job in California with the Union Oil Company of California (later renamed Unocal). In the mid-1990s, after more than a decade managing operations, he earned an MBA and a master’s in international management from Thunderbird University in Phoenix. The combination of business and technology backgrounds led to an impressive 30-plus-year career that spanned the globe in the energy and mining industries.

Despite the highs and lows of the oil and gas business, Hinkel has enjoyed the ride. He describes living abroad as a fantastic experience for himself, Linda, their daughters, Lisbeth and Lauren, and son, Evan. “It changes how you view what you can do in the world,” he says.

Hinkel is currently the chief operating officer, Asia Pacific for Husky Energy, a major Canadian energy company. He and Linda live in Shenzhen, China, and office in Hong Kong, where they enjoy experiencing the local culture and parks while living in a very modern and vibrant technology hub.

Several years ago Hinkel received funds from the sale of a technology ventures portfolio by a major global energy company that he helped to lead. After researching his philanthropic options, he set up a charitable lead trust to support UT’s Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering at the Cockrell School of Engineering. For donors facing a significant taxable event, a charitable lead trust is an ideal way to achieve financial and philanthropic goals at the same time.

“From a tax structuring standpoint and also from a personal standpoint, the gift made a lot of sense,” says Hinkel. “It’s a really good tool and gives you a lot of flexibility, particularly if you are mid- to late-career and don’t need funds immediately.”

Hinkel transferred assets to a charitable lead trust and received a substantial tax advantage up front. Each year, while the assets accrue interest, the trustee distributes a fixed dollar amount (ideally without touching the principal) to benefit the department. Down the road, remaining assets will be returned to Hinkel to support his financial goals at that time, whether they be funding his retirement or even continuing to fund his philanthropic interests.

Since 2010, funds from Hinkel’s trust have been used to hire new UT Austin faculty focused on drilling and production technology and to build a world-class drilling program unlike any other in the nation. He is pleased that his gift helps advance the university’s leadership in teaching and research during such a transformative time in the energy industry. His gift also ensures that UT Austin professors are helping the United States—and ultimately the world—take advantage of new and unconventional resource opportunities.

Hinkel sees great things for the future of engineering at the university. He serves on a task force to expand the Cockrell School’s international presence and ability to educate the next generation of engineers, which includes his son, Evan, a 2011 petroleum and geosystems engineering graduate. He is pleased that his trust has supported the department during his son’s time as a student. “Evan and other UT Austin alumni will continue the technology revolution that is transforming the world of energy. They are discovering ways to use technology to power our global economy with clean, safe, and reliable energy today and far into the future.” 🌍
Michael Lang has many fascinating stories to tell about his long, distinguished career in law and finance. He sums up his career in one word — improbable — considering he has stuttered for more than 65 years, yet managed to thrive in professions that prize eloquence.

Although Lang always had a passion for learning, at age 5 he developed a terrible fear of school when he was forced to speak and expose his stutter to his teachers and peers. “In those days we learned to read by reading aloud, but I couldn’t say ‘Jane’ or ‘John,’” Lang remembers. “I couldn’t answer ‘here’ during roll call. At that time, speech therapy was in its early stages and often counterproductive, actually making my speech worse.”

Despite his learning challenges, Lang persevered. The Fort Worth native came to The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned his B.B.A. in 1967 and his juris doctorate in 1970. He continued his studies at Oxford University. His fear plagued him throughout his academic life. “I suffered great feelings of hopelessness in law school. I sat petrified and didn’t hear anything for the entire class because the thought of getting called on was worse than death. Being ostracized almost wrecked me, many times.”

After entering the work force, Lang’s courage, hard work, and determination catapulted his career. He served as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Second Appellate District, the U.S. Federal Power Commission, and the U.S. Federal Price Commission. He served as counsel and partner in the nation’s leading private practice law firms, was a founding partner of Norte Capitol, and created eight companies, which he led in public offerings on the New York Stock Exchange.

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by Sharon Reynolds
than one percent of the total number of adults in the United States who stutter, yet as few as 1,250 clinicians (less than one percent of the total number of U.S. speech-language pathologists) feel competent to treat the condition. A recent review of 115 accredited undergraduate programs in speech-language pathology shows that 97 percent allow students to graduate with no academic or clinical exposure to stuttering. In addition, few insurers cover the cost of treatments, leaving families to pay out of pocket or forego speech therapy entirely.

At UT Austin, every undergraduate student in communication sciences and disorders, as well as all majors across the university, now has access to advanced clinical research training in stuttering through the Lang Stuttering Institute. Additionally, Byrd recently established the student-run Lang Stuttering Institute Student Leadership Organization with a mission to unite students from diverse backgrounds and majors in order to educate, advocate, and spread awareness about stuttering through leadership and mentorship opportunities.

“This gift from the Langs emphasizes our university’s mission that what starts here changes the world,” says Dr. Byrd. “We’re active in the clinic and allow that process to inform our research. It’s important that we train students here so they go on to train others. We are contributing to a sea change. What’s unique about the institute is that we’re creating a community of advocacy, mentorship, and leadership, and we’re doing that across our clients, our students, and our clinicians.”

Michael Lang, who has stuttered for more than 65 years, has recognized the tremendous gap in resources, research, and services available for the stuttering community worldwide. He and his wife, Tami, are making annual gifts to launch the Michael and Tami Lang Stuttering Institute. They also have an estate gift that will establish a perpetual endowment to continue the support far beyond their lifetimes.

Their estate gift is through a charitable remainder trust that provides several benefits to them — upfront charitable tax deduction, avoidance of capital gains on appreciated assets, and reliable income for life. Within 10 years, a significant distribution from the trust will come to UT Austin for the benefit of the Lang Stuttering Institute.

For more information about the various ways to give to UT Austin, please call 800-687-4602 or visit giving.utexas.edu/giftplanning.

Start Now and Give for Generations to Come

The institute fills a sizeable gap in care and provides free services for all ages on a first-come, first-served basis. Community outreach programs include Camp Dream. Speak. Live., a weeklong summer camp for children; group therapy services; mentorship programs for past and present participants; parent education; free workshops for Austin-area speech-language pathologists; and an online training tool for speech-language pathologists across the country.

Stephen Washington Sr. stuttered his entire life and says it has been emotionally challenging for him since his son, Stephen Jr., developed stuttering. They live in Atlanta, but came to Austin when Stephen Jr. was given a chance to attend Byrd’s camp from a wait list of more than 220 children. “I would have given my life to have had an opportunity like that. Because of Camp Dream. Speak. Live., my son will never have to know the same struggles I endured.”

The Langs agree that their involvement in creating this institute leaves them fulfilled and happy. Working closely with Byrd on the mission of the institute and hearing of the many lives that they are touching as a result of their gift has helped Lang to grow in his acceptance of his own stuttering. “We appreciate the opportunity to help lead change. Our dream is that one day, people from all over the world will have access to these services, free of charge, and that nobody will be left behind.”

TAMI AND MICHAEL LANG ARE GRATEFUL TO SEE THE IMPACT OF THEIR GIFT DURING THEIR LIFETIMES.
Jack Jackson was a firm believer that educational opportunities in life stretch far beyond the walls of teaching institutions.

Just 3 years old when his father died, Jackson was raised by a strong mother who instilled positive values in her only son. As director of public welfare for the City of Dallas, Edna devoted her life to the underprivileged. During Jackson’s youth, he spent time at her office befriending policemen, firemen, and ambulance drivers. Once Edna’s workday ended, she and Jackson delivered food to hungry families. He witnessed tragic emergencies, became street smart, and developed an enduring compassion.

Jackson lived through the Great Depression and was fortunate to have father figures along the way who taught him how the world worked. After high school, Jackson found a job at his cousin’s gasoline plant in East Texas, where he worked hard and learned the oil business. He also learned to take charge and create his own opportunities.

Two years later, Jackson’s cousin encouraged him to go to college. Jackson came to UT Austin to study petroleum engineering, but after a rough academic start, he transferred to Temple Junior College. There he met the love of his life, Katie. He returned to UT Austin, where he graduated with a B.A. in geology and minors in anthropology and math.

Jackson served in the Navy and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey during World War II. He made his fortune in the oil business and through real estate investments. Many described him as an extraordinary man who knew that the best way to do business was with his heart. He cherished family and friends.

In 1975, Jackson was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Geology Foundation of UT’s Department of Geological Sciences. Dr. Bill Fisher became the director of the foundation in 1984, and they shared a close friendship that would last until Jackson’s death in 2003. Over time, says Fisher, Jackson developed a deep trust in the foundation’s mission.

“The two most important things in Jack’s life were marrying Katie and getting his degree in geology from UT Austin,” says Fisher. “He and Katie strongly believed in the power of education to help mankind.”

The Jacksons made a $15 million gift for a new wing to the Geology Building, followed by a $25 million gift to form the new John A. and Katherine G. Jackson School of Geosciences. It was just the beginning of Jackson’s larger plan to leave the bulk of his estate to the school.

Jackson and Katie’s marriage spanned 60 years. In 2002, shortly after Katie’s passing, Jackson made an incredible announcement. He would leave a permanent endowment and royalties from oil and gas interests from his estate to the Jackson School of Geosciences, raising it from a department to become one of UT’s then 16 colleges and schools. It was the largest gift in UT history, conservatively appraised at the time of his death at between $150 and $200 million. His gift consolidated the university’s three major geosciences units to create the strong foundation of a research and academic powerhouse.

“Jack considered it to be an investment in the school that launched his career and gave him life opportunities,” says Fisher. “It dramatically expanded the school’s mission. The Jackson School has become the largest and most diverse geologic entity within the U.S., where world-class faculty and research scientists are training the next generation of scientific talent.”

Today the Jackson estate is valued at more than $300 million and continues to appreciate. The endowment and earnings from mineral rights have enabled the Jackson School to hire top faculty and research scientists, build state-
of-the-art facilities that increase the depth and breadth of its research, and enrich student education. Whether students and researchers are analyzing frozen methane deposits under the Gulf of Mexico, developing technology for future NASA missions, or presenting scientific talks or posters at national conferences, the world has become their training ground through experiential learning.

Jim Langham was Jackson’s lifetime friend and financial advisor and says Jackson would be proud of what the Jackson School has become. “He benefacted the school that, he felt, helped make him a fortune,” says Langham. “In the last few years of his life, he was able to see some of the benefits of what his fortune was going to do, and I think he was happy with what he did.”

According to U.S. News & World Report, the Jackson School is presently ranked eighth in the earth sciences. Dean Sharon Mosher says there’s more work to be done. “Jack and Katie’s gift was intended to create a firm foundation for the future of the Jackson School — one that others could strengthen moving forward,” says Dean Mosher. “We must continue building on that foundation to further expand and sustain programs. We are confident that we will one day become the top earth science program in the nation.”

HOW MINERALS KEEP ON GIVING

You can make a perpetual gift of mineral interests that will keep giving to UT Austin.

Jack Jackson had the utmost trust in UT Austin and the Jackson School and its trained team of geologists, accountants, engineers, economists, administrators, and other professionals to manage mineral interests from leases covering 175,000 acres used for both existing and future wells from his estate. During the 12 years since his death, the Jackson gift of mineral interests has fluctuated from $200,000 per month to almost $900,000 per month, depending on the price of oil and gas products. These mineral interests will continue to generate money indefinitely for the Jackson School and create opportunities for future generations of Longhorns.

If you are interested in making a gift of land or mineral interests, please contact us at 800-687-4602 or visit giving.utexas.edu/land.

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