WHAT IS THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN?

People are the most important resource within the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering (CAEE) at The University of Texas as Austin. We have a bold vision to compete for the world’s brightest student leaders. Recognizing our need to support human capital and our commitment to preparing for our future, CAEE is launching the Legacy Campaign, an alumni fundraising effort that seeks to raise $10 million over five years.

The campaign will establish programs for Legacy Fellows and Legacy Scholars with endowed funds dedicated to attracting top graduate students and supporting undergraduate student researchers. Legacy Fellows will be recognized among the most prestigious graduate fellowships, and the Legacy Scholars will be distinct among our peer institutions, which typically lack the resources to fund undergraduate research.

The Legacy Campaign will enable CAEE to recruit the most sought-after graduate students and to engage our brightest undergraduates to work alongside faculty on visionary research that delivers real-world results, grows our economy, and creatively addresses the future’s most daunting societal challenges.

LEGACY FELLOWS

Today’s graduate students are the next generation of technology creators, economy builders, society servers, researchers, and teachers. CAEE’s national reputation hinges in part on the quality of graduate students we recruit. While multiple factors ensure recruitment of undergraduates, CAEE is not as competitive in attracting top graduate students from across the U.S. Prestigious, fully-funded Legacy Fellowships will enable CAEE to extend competitive offers and sustain our standing as one of the top-five nationally ranked programs in the country. The Legacy Campaign will secure the financial resources needed to build a preeminent endowment for graduate fellowship support.

LEGACY SCHOLARS

There has never been a more important time to support undergraduates who are interested in research opportunities. Data show that working in a lab as an undergraduate significantly enhances the learning experience through one-on-one interaction, encourages pursuit of a graduate degree, and teaches skills that are highly valuable in the workplace. No matter the impetus behind a student’s interest in undergraduate research, the benefit is dramatic. CAEE does not currently have the resources to pay undergraduates for their work on research teams, but the Legacy Campaign will secure financial resources to permanently endow undergraduate research stipends.
HONORING TRADITION
In 1894, a proud engineering tradition began at The University of Texas at Austin. Since then, the rich history of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering is marked with beloved and remarkable faculty members whose careers have been characterized by accomplished research, excellent teaching and dedicated service to the university, the state, the nation, and the world.

SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE
More than 100 years since its founding, CAEE and its alumni continue to meet the challenges of maintaining, modernizing, expanding and securing the vast infrastructure that underpins our modern society while simultaneously working to sustain our environment for future generations. CAEE’s success by any measure—top national rankings, graduation rates, teaching awards—is tied to the accomplishments of its faculty, its graduate students, and its undergraduates. If CAEE is to continue to distinguish itself among peer institutions, it must invest in its most valuable resource—our students.

“The Legacy Campaign honors the vision and accomplishments of the faculty who built our department and provides unique opportunities for our students to become the engineering leaders of the future.”
- Sharon Wood, CAEE Chair

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
ONE STUDENT’S STORY
Federico “Fred” Aguayo graduated in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. A first generation college student and alumnus of Permian Basin High School in Odessa, Fred had the opportunity to work with Professor Kevin Folliard and graduate student Anthony F. Bentivegna as part of the Construction Materials Research Group at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus. His project was aimed at developing concrete materials for rapid repair of infrastructure. Following this experience, Fred was recruited to perform a forensic investigation of decommissioned coastal concrete piles at Georgia Tech as part of a summer research experience program for undergraduates.

“My research experiences were the most academically rewarding part of my college career. Involvement in research has allowed me to present papers, write technical reports and participate in several conferences. With the support of my family, and because of my undergraduate research experience, I have decided to pursue a Ph.D. in civil engineering at UT with an emphasis in construction material science.”

CELEBRATING STUDENTS
NOW is the time to support CAEE students. Past fundraising campaigns have focused on faculty and program support:
1983 – Centennial celebration of The University of Texas at Austin launched campaign to increase endowed faculty support across the Forty Acres
2003 – 100th anniversary of CAEE triggered the Centennial Campaign to expand the endowment of the department and to enhance our teaching and research facilities
2012 – Need for sustainable graduate student support and a more robust undergraduate research program inspires the Legacy Campaign

CAEE is dedicated to educating leaders of the future in technology, industry, academia and business who will thrive in today’s globally competitive environment. Students are CAEE’s greatest asset. The Legacy Campaign will provide sustainable funding to enhance both our undergraduate and graduate students. Your gift to the Legacy Campaign is an investment in the future.

Gifts of all levels to the Legacy Campaign are critical to its success. Donors who make a gift of $25,000 or more (payable over a five year period) have the opportunity to establish a named endowed excellence fund within the larger Legacy Campaign. To participate in the Legacy Campaign, please contact Michael Barasch at (512) 471-0469 or michael.barasch@austin.utexas.edu.