Meeting the Great and Small Challenges of our Time

THE POWERS FELLOWS CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

In the fall of 2009, a new fellowship program was created in the Graduate School to support the recruitment and retention of ambitious and successful graduate scholars. The William C. Powers, Jr. Graduate Fellowship program named in honor of UT’s current President, has supported five outstanding students in its short history and is poised to support many more.

A privately funded challenge grant of $250,000 has been provided to the Graduate School to expand this important program. Partnering with the original donor, Dr. Steven Ungerleider, the goal is to raise an additional $250,000 by June 1, 2012. The fellowships will be used to support the strategic academic priorities outlined by the President and the Academic Deans. The focus will be on recruiting the best students to UT Austin and providing dissertation support to students in their final year.

The Powers Graduate Fellowships are among the most prestigious fellowships awarded by the Graduate School, providing a financial package totaling $36,000 over a nine month period. Students who receive one of these fellowships are considered to be among the most academically competitive scholars on our campus.

Jimmy Su, the most recent Powers Fellow, is pleased with the opportunities for collaboration and the advancement of his research afforded by the fellowship. His research is dedicated to providing doctors new tools for earlier identification and treatment of cardiovascular disease using combined ultrasound and photoacoustic imaging for detecting and treating atherosclerotic plaques.

He says, “By obtaining [this] funding, my lab was able to allocate additional funds towards further research collaborations. During this past year, we were able to conduct our first in-vivo animal experiments down at UT Health Science Center in Houston. I was also able to participate in a business plan venture this past year involving the Office of Technology Commercialization, and other students in engineering and business here at UT.”

The Time is Now

In a recent speech, President Powers said, “the public research university of the future must solve global problems, expand knowledge, and improve lives through society.” Graduate programs and our students are critical to ensuring that we embody that future and that UT Austin is the premier public research university in the country.

As 1910 Society members, you are the most loyal supporters of graduate education at UT Austin and I am grateful for your past contributions.

I invite all members and friends of the 1910 Society to accept the challenge available through the Powers Fellowship Challenge Grant with a gift today. Every gift will be matched - up to $250,000 - and your support will be dedicated to the recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate students. Help us reach our goal of $500,000 by June 1, 2012.

Now is the time to invest in our graduate students. Together, we can meet the great and small challenges of our time.

I appreciate your support in this important effort.

Warmly,

Victoria E. Rodríguez
VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

GIVE AT www.utexas.edu/ogs/powersfellows/

“HAVING THIS SUPPORT FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL MADE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUCCESSFUL AND AN UNSUCCESSFUL FINAL YEAR AT UT.”

-Simeon Floyd, Powers Fellow, 2009-2010

Powers Fellows, Con’t...

“AVATION IS NOT JUST A FINANCIAL GIFT, BUT IT IS AN INSPIRATION TO ME TO SELFLESSLY SERVE OTHERS IN RETURN”

-Jimmy Su, Powers Fellow, 2010-2011

Photos courtesy of Simeon Floyd and Jimmy Su

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Recent Awards

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In Memoriam

**LAUREN JEAN EDWARDS BEHR**

The Graduate School is deeply saddened by the passing of Lauren Edwards, our Communications Graduate Research Assistant from Fall, 2008 – December, 2010. Lauren contributed her writing talents to our Web site, blog and 100 year anniversary book. She lost her battle with cancer in April, 2011 and will be greatly missed. Read the full GradNews blog post about Lauren: [http://blogs.utexas.edu/gradnews/2011/04/25/in-memoriam-lauren-edwards-behr/](http://blogs.utexas.edu/gradnews/2011/04/25/in-memoriam-lauren-edwards-behr/)

2011 Outstanding Graduate Advisor

**CONGRATULATIONS 1910 SOCIETY MEMBER PETER WARD**

Since opening its doors in 1970, the LBJ School of Public Affairs has built its’ national reputation by emphasizing both the theoretical and practical skills needed by government policy advisors and practitioners. Initially offering only a masters degree, the Ph.D. program was introduced in 1992 and underwent a significant review in 2008. At that time, Peter Ward, C.B. Smith Sr. Centennial Chair in U.S.-Mexico Relations and Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology, was asked to assume the responsibilities of Graduate Adviser for the program.

Excited by the challenge of revitalizing the doctoral program, Ward has done a fantastic job by all accounts. And as a result, he was awarded the 2011 Outstanding Graduate Adviser award from the Graduate School. The honor left him both surprised and touched.

“The reason why I was so delighted to receive it was on [the students’] behalf. It really was an affirmation of everything that they had been working towards over the last two years…This was just a great thing for them and for those of my colleagues who have been especially supportive along the way.”

It was the Ph.D. students who championed Ward’s nomination for the award. They stated, “The impacts of Peter’s embracing of the leadership role were tangible and visible immediately. His care and attention have changed the morale and demeanor of the students in the program. Doctoral students now feel valued by the school, supported in our efforts to achieve academic endeavors, and able to accomplish the expectations the university has for us.”

As graduate adviser, Ward has worked to strengthen multiple areas of the program. He has sought to foster a strong sense of community among the various cohorts principally through a revitalized weekly lunchtime colloquium where LBJ School faculty and students present their research, kudos and accolades are delivered, and top faculty from across campus share policy aspects and research methods from their own disciplines. He has created an area of offices and carrels exclusively for the students – which they affectionately refer to as “Ph.D. Alley.”

“HE IS, IN SHORT, THE MODEL OF WHAT A FACULTY ADVISER AND MENTOR OUGHT TO BE”

- Robert Hutchings, Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Ward’s other efforts have included stronger individual relationships with each Ph.D. student and being a staunch advocate for the resources and skills needed by the students to achieve their goals. By finding ways to use existing resources from the LBJ School and the Graduate School and by engaging more faculty and the School’s research centers, Ward has secured opportunities for Ph.D. students to work as teaching and research assistants, provided more competitive fellowship packages and funded travel to conferences.

Ward finds academic research an important addition to the practical training needed for policy development in government and uses his own work in low-income self-help housing in Latin America and in what he calls “informal homestead subdivisions” here in Texas to help train the students.

For more information about Dr. Ward, please visit [http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/directory/faculty/peter-ward](http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/directory/faculty/peter-ward)
When Dr. David Braddock graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973 with his Ph.D. jointly in Special Education and Educational Administration, he was armed with three University of Texas degrees. He had received his B.A. in 1967 and his M.A. in 1970, both in Government.

“Having completed graduate work at UT in seven different academic departments, I feel a strong sense of attachment to the UT Graduate School, which embraces all these disciplines,” said Braddock. For this reason, Dr. Braddock joined the 1910 Society.

Braddock transformed his unique academic experiences into a life of working for greater opportunity for people with disabilities in our society. He was strongly influenced by faculty such as Emmette Redford and Wilfred Webb in the Government Department, as well as Jasper Harvey and Laurence Haskew in the College of Education, who both served on his dissertation committee.

Time spent working at the Austin State School acquainted him with people with cognitive disabilities who endured extremely oppressive conditions on a daily basis led him to ask, “Don’t these citizens have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, to which all Americans are entitled?”

Then, UT arranged a year-long internship in Washington D.C. in governmental affairs at a national disability association that made him want to be a part of a quiet revolution that articulated and fought for the rights of people with disabilities throughout our society. UT had taught him about the potential of an America that would provide opportunities for all its citizens, thus fulfilling its destiny.

Braddock has made great strides in this area. As a professor of public health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he was instrumental in establishing the nation’s first Ph.D. Program in Disability Studies and launched and led a highly regarded Institute and academic Department of Disability and Human Development there. In 1999, he received the prestigious University Scholar Award from U of I President James Stukel.

Braddock has been at the University of Colorado School of Medicine for the past 10 years as the Coleman-Turner Endowed Chair and Professor in Psychiatry and Associate Vice President. He also directs the multi-campus Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities. The CU Board of Regents recently honored him with one of the University’s highest honors, the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Award.

He insists that high-quality graduate education at UT must continue to be strengthened. “The University of Texas at Austin is the single most important asset for the future of the State of Texas and for its rapidly growing population. But Texas is dramatically underfunding UT’s Graduate School. This is done at great peril for this generation of Texans, for future generations of Texans, and for America’s competitiveness in general because UT is one of America’s national treasures.”

“EMBRACE UT PASSIONATELY AND ALL THAT IT HAS TO OFFER ACADEMICALLY AND IN RESEARCH, BUT ALSO ENGAGE EARLY AND OFTEN IN YOUR TRAINING WITH THE WORLD OF WORK”

-Dr. David Braddock

If you are interested in becoming a 1910 Society member or finding out more about estate planning to support graduate students, please contact Jonathan Duffy at (512) 232-3631.
Research Funds Facts

Last year, more than $644 million was awarded to the university in sponsored research. Graduate students work alongside senior researchers, doing cutting-edge, original, and publishable research, while they contribute new ideas and new perspectives, bringing creative young minds and high energy to the intellectual pursuits that will improve our society.

Colleges and Units Receiving Sponsored Research Funds 2009-2010

DATA SOURCE: THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN’S OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

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<tr>
<th>Colleges and Units</th>
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<td>Vice President for Research</td>
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