A Philanthropy at Texas

Horns of Plenty
What private giving is making possible

> Too cool for school? Not if a new gift in the College of Education does what it's intended to. Life Members John and Libba Massey have donated $1.5 million for an endowed chair to engage a nationally prominent scholar whose research and instruction will advance the use of first-rate, innovative technology (a.k.a. cool stuff) in teacher education. Education dean Manuel Justiz says the Masseys' donation addresses a core priority of the college: to be leaders in innovation and science-driven teacher education. The Masseys, he says, "understand the importance of educating teachers who can seamlessly incorporate technology in their classrooms." Libba, BS '61, is a former public schoolteacher and trustee of Dallas' Highland Park Independent School District. A longtime member and former chair of the college's advisory council, she is also chair-elect of UT's Development Board, co-chair of the Campaign for Texas, and a member of the Texas Exes Board of Directors. Each year, the Exes give an excellence award named for her to recognize exceptional UT Austin faculty who are engaged in teacher preparation. "Libba and I believe in public education and feel there is no more important investment than in teachers and students," says John, who earned a UT law degree in 1966. "It's absolutely crucial that youth receive an education that allows them to enter the adult workforce and thrive in a 21st-century economy."

> Good partners make all the difference in the race to the top. And some of the University's best partners are donors of estate gifts, said President Bill Powers at this spring's annual luncheon of the Texas Leadership Society. Powers thanked the more than 200 estate donors in attendance and noted that they are an integral part of his goal for UT — to be the best public university in the country. "We simply could not do this without your help and support," he said. The luncheon is a chance for University faculty and students to thank members for their generosity and update them on research, priorities, and challenges. This year, R. Malcolm Brown Jr., the Johnson & Johnson Centennial Chair in Plant Cell Biology, discussed how his lab's research in microbiology could address the global issues of sustainable energy and climate change, and Harrington Fellow Christopher Heaney, a doctoral candidate in history whose fellowship was endowed by an estate gift, talked about his research into the lost history of Machu Picchu. The University knows of $351 million in gifts that will be realized in the future, about $150 million of which has been tallied since the Campaign for Texas began. Overall, planned gifts totaling $547 million have been realized during UT's 125-year history.