

# The University of Texas at Dallas

## Tier One Bound

### Unprecedented Support Caps Successful Campaign

Alumni and friends of the University of Texas at Dallas set another record this year, sustaining the university's drive to become a Tier One research institution. With gifts totalling \$78.9 million, donors successfully pushed past UT Dallas' goal to raise \$200 million by December 31, 2014. In the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, more than \$262 million has been raised to assist students, support research and strengthen the endowment.

"We couldn't be more grateful for the many friends and alumni who have contributed to this campaign" said Dwight Clasby, interim vice president for development and alumni relations. "Private support is helping us realize our founders' vision of UT Dallas becoming a national research institution." This final year of the five-year Realize the Vision campaign has been marked by transformational gifts and nearly 100 percent growth of the endowment.

## Growth of the Endowment

» New funds will provide scholarships, fellowships, faculty chairs and professorships.

\$195  
MILLION

'09

\$387  
MILLION

'14

One such gift ensures that the study of art history at UT Dallas will bloom. Edith O'Donnell, a champion of education and the arts in Texas, gave \$17 million to establish an institute of art history at the University. The gift will fund a director position, 10 graduate research fellowships, four distinguished chairs, and an endowed research and program fund. The institute will be housed in the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building, which was dedicated in her name last year.

As friends like O'Donnell propel UT Dallas forward, alumni are stepping up to help, as well.

The number of alumni who give to the university has doubled, with many of these donors establishing Opportunity Funds. These unrestricted endowments can be used to benefit any part of the University.

## Honoring Resiliency

Alumni donors Mayur and Nutan Ranoliya-Radadiya (MS '10 and MS '13, respectively) want to inspire students through their gift, so they gave their new Opportunity Fund a name that evokes images of strength and courage: Sorath Lion. The name honors a pride of lions that adapted to a foreign territory in India to avoid extinction.

Through the *Sorath Lion Opportunity Fund*, Mayur and Nutan will provide financial support to Naveen Jindal School of Management students who have demonstrated strong

leadership skills while overcoming hardship. Nutan explains that "like the Sorath lions that adjusted to their new surroundings and learned how to survive, we want to support students who are faced with similar hardship and still excel in the classroom."

Mayur and Nutan understand the struggle to adapt firsthand. In 2007, the couple relocated from India to North Texas for new job opportunities. Arriving with a single suitcase and little money,

they remember when a haircut or bus pass was considered a luxury item. During this time, the couple saved every dollar possible, so one day they could each attend graduate school.

"I always wanted to pursue a graduate degree in the U.S., but because of previous student loans, we couldn't afford the graduate school application or student visa fees," said Mayur. "Once we moved to Texas, we saved for two years, and with financial support from my employer, I was able to attend the Jindal School."



# The University of Texas at Dallas



Alumni Mayur (middle) and Nutan Ranoliya (right) share photos of the Sorath lions with the recipient of their scholarship, Ankit Takallapaly (left).

With the difficulties of balancing graduate school behind them, the couple is focused on helping Jindal School students who are confronted by adversity. Both Mayur and Nutan credit their current success to their educational experience at the Jindal School and want to help others share that feeling.

“We want to support students who have experienced a difficult situation, whether it is financial, cultural or any other type of difficulty,” said Mayur. “We want to encourage students and tell them that an education can change your life, just like it changed our lives.”

This fall, Ankit Takallapaly, a graduate student at the Jindal School, was selected to receive the first award made from the fund. “This award grants me the freedom to take time and plan for everything I want to achieve without worrying about financial burdens,” Ankit said. “And when something as encouraging as this comes along, you are motivated to accomplish even bigger goals.”

To learn more about the *Realize the Vision* campaign, visit [utdallas.edu/campaign](http://utdallas.edu/campaign).