



With annual donations from former students and the entire Aggie Network, The Association of Former Students provides support to Texas A&M University and Texas Aggies. "Dollars at Work" reflects how your annual gift to The Association impacts the lives of students, faculty, staff and former students, perpetuating a lasting legacy of Aggie Spirit, camaraderie and pride.

# AGGIE DOLLARS@WORK

## A Letter Of Thanks From D.C. Intern

The Association of Former Students supports the Texas A&M University Public Policy Internship Program, which provides public service internships in Washington, D.C., to a number of Aggies each year. One recipient, **Alaina Deans '09**, wrote to express her appreciation:

"I am honored to be selected for the Public Policy Internship Program for the spring 2010 semester. Thank you for your generous support.

"Being able to work in Washington, D.C., has been a goal of mine for a long time, and thanks to this scholarship, I will be able to spend the spring semester representing A&M as an intern in our nation's capital.

"The Aggie family has been a constant source of inspiration and support. I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had and will have as a member of this family. As I prepare to leave Aggieland, I will take all that I have learned and experienced here with me, striving always to uphold the good reputation of A&M. My Aggie Ring serves as a constant reminder of all that I have learned here, the friendships made here, and the memories of my time at A&M that are irreplaceable.

"I am grateful for all of my experiences at A&M but especially for this opportunity before me. This scholarship will be truly beneficial to me as I seek to gain valuable



Alaina Deans '09

experience in policy development. This program is exemplary and I thank you again for allowing me to participate."

## Badminton Club Educates Aggie Students

In only two years, the Texas A&M University Badminton Club has established itself and spread awareness of the sport to Texas A&M students.

"Not only is badminton a sport most everyone can participate in, it's fun too," said President **Lokesh Kulkarni '10**.

Membership in the organization is free, so funds are usually stretched thin.

"This is where The



Donors to The Association of Former Students' Annual Fund helped the Texas A&M Badminton Club buy equipment to use during practices.

Association of Former Students was vital to our success this year," said officer **Tharanga Perera '10**. With funds from The Association of Former Students, the Badminton Club was able to purchase equipment used during practice. "We are extremely thankful The Association was able to provide us with the proper tools to cultivate our skills, as well as educate beginners," said Kulkarni.

## Students Share Knowledge With Businesses Abroad

Sharing knowledge is the mission of the Texas A&M University student group Global Business Brigades. The new organization focuses on propagating sustainable change for small businesses around the globe by taking biannual “brigades” to disadvantaged countries.

“Thanks to sponsorship from The Association of Former Students, we were able to take our first 18-student brigade to Panama in January,” said President **Katheryn Hoerster '11**.

During the trip, the students visited a small, rural, family-owned cacao farm, where they used the knowledge and resources learned from their time at A&M to advise the employees on better business practices.

“We helped them learn to balance their fund more efficiently, as well as turning their raw cacao product into edible form, and then selling it in the most cost-effective manner to wholesale,” Hoerster said. “It was a fantastic learning experience for the group, being able to give necessary tools to these people that we know will benefit them in the long run.”



Members of the Global Business Brigades on a trip to Panama.



A GBB student processes cacao in Panama.

## Association Helps Orchestra Club With Annual Fundraiser

“Have you ever played the board game Clue?” asks Texas A&M University Orchestra Club President **Jehyun Park '11**. “That is the feeling we are trying to create with our Mystery Dinner Theatre event.”

With funding from The Association of Former Students, the Orchestra Club, created as an interest group for orchestra, puts on the annual fundraiser at the College Station Conference Center. The mystery dinner allows club members and all in attendance to contribute “just by having a good time,” Park said.

“People go all out with costumes and disguises. We put on musical and acting performances for the audience during their dining experience and, in turn, are able to showcase what the club is all about.”

The Mystery Dinner Theatre allows the Orchestra Club to further music education and musical diversity at Texas A&M.



Texas A&M's Orchestra Club raises funds with an annual Mystery Dinner Theater, with help from donors to The Association of Former Students.