Dear Friends,

You don’t have to look far to see the tremendous impact our donors’ generosity has made at Texas State University. It shines on the San Marcos and Round Rock Campuses in our cutting-edge learning and athletic facilities, fuels world-class research and innovation, and bolsters exceptional teaching. Most importantly, the power of giving is evident in the success of our students. We are sending more graduates than ever into the world, prepared to fulfill their dreams and meet the needs of a global workforce.

Philanthropy in the form of student scholarships is integral to the more than $370 million in financial aid we provide to over 70% of our student population annually. This Hillviews issue gives an in-depth look at the many ways Texas State helps students navigate the landscape of funding sources, spanning federal grants, our Bobcat Promise program, student work-study opportunities, and endowed scholarships funded by our donors. You’ll also meet Bobcats whose lives were changed because of their ability to access the financial support they needed to complete their education. Our goal at Texas State is to meet our students where they are and help them achieve their educational goals — whether they are returning to complete their degrees or beginning their journeys as freshmen.

For the first time, we have included our annual donor report in Hillviews, showing how gifts made in fiscal year 2019 were transformational to Texas State and our students. Endowments ensure we have the resources now and in the future to sustain and grow Texas State’s legacy of student achievement. Because of the generosity of so many, during fiscal year 2019 we established 53 new endowments and received endowment gifts totaling more than $8 million. Endowments are also critical to advancing Texas State toward our goal of becoming recognized as a national research university.

Also featured in this issue are several landmark anniversaries we are celebrating, including 100 years of band music with a countdown of special events leading up to the gala in 2020, the 30th birthday of Mathworks, and the 25th year of the Residential College living and learning experience on the San Marcos Campus.

We are immensely grateful for the support we receive from so many friends, alumni, and partners to enrich the lives and futures of our students.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Trauth

(from the president’s desk)

Mathworks — by the numbers

By Susie Phillips Gonzalez

Mathworks, a nationally recognized center of excellence and innovation in mathematics, is celebrating 30 years at Texas State University. Its origins date back half a century to when Dr. Max Warshauer was in high school.

Warshauer, Texas State University System Regents’ Professor of Mathematics and director and founder of Texas Mathworks, attended a summer math camp at Ohio State University in the late 1960s. Surrounded by what he describes as talented high school students from across the country, Warshauer learned how to re-discover and prove time-tested theorems in number theory and to “think deeply of simple things.” He majored in mathematics at the University of Chicago and earned a doctorate at Louisiana State University.
Adding up funds to launch Mathworks

reached more than 8,000 students and 700
development, and teacher professional development.
for middle and high school students, curriculum
initial program faculty members Dr. Terry McCabe
under the three pillars advanced by Warshauer and
the program afloat.
national foundations and individual donors to keep
recruit campers. In the second year of the program,
recalls driving to small towns near San Marcos to
and four Texas State graduate students. Warshauer
mathematics education.
abstract algebra. Warshauer has also advised
algebra, topology, differential equations, and
taught courses in number theory, calculus, linear
During its three decades, the program has
today, Mathworks has evolved and thrived
In 1990, he secured a small grant that covered
costs for a new summer camp for 12 high schoolers
and four Texas State graduate students. Warshauer
recalls driving to small towns near San Marcos to
recruit campers. In the second year of the program,
Warshauer and his colleagues strive to enhance
every student’s love for mathematics through
research-based instruction that keeps learning
exciting and relevant. “The program is preparing
a new leadership in our country so we can be
competitive with the best students in the world,”
he says.

Solving a mathematics education problem

This summer, Mathworks celebrated its 30th anniversary with panel discussions featuring alumni from each decade, as well as academic colloquia, tubing trips along the San Marcos River, and a barbecue. Among the participants was Dr. Cody Patterson, a former Mathworks student, teacher, and counselor, who joined Texas State as an
assistant professor this fall.
Growing up in Weatherford, Patterson had
no direct exposure to Texas State and said he was
“desperate” to find a program like Mathworks
because he had completed every math course in his
high school offered and wanted to feed his “math
obsession.”
Patterson, who eventually earned a doctorate
at The University of Texas at Austin in addition
to bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Texas
A&M University, credits Mathworks professors
with helping students grasp concepts and tools
needed to solve problems and thus comprehend
the major ideas of each course. “I found this to be
a powerful experience in shaping my identity as
a mathematician, and I try to pass some of this
along to the undergraduate students I teach,”
Patterson says.
When Dr. Will Boney was a high school
freshman in Austin, his math teacher told him
about Mathworks. “He was a great teacher and
got me excited about math,” says Boney, who was
also looking for something to do over the summer.
That first experience eventually led to seven
summers with Mathworks — first as a student, then
as a counselor. This fall, Boney joined the faculty of
the Department of Mathematics as an assistant
professor. He comes to Texas State from Harvard
University, where he was a Benjamin Peirce Fellow
and a National Science Foundation Mathematical
Postdoctoral Research Fellow.
Aucoli Fernandez from San Antonio was one of the Honors Summer Math Camp students in the early and mid-2000s who learned how to
solve math problems through discovery and not
by memorizing the answers. “That is a skill you
need everywhere,” says Fernandez, who earned an
M.B.A. at the University of Michigan in Ann
Arbor after receiving an architectural engineering
degree from UT Austin. She is now a manager
for an operational improvements company
called Partners in Performance. Fernandez says
Mathworks also taught her independence, network
building, teamwork, and public speaking.
Fernandez says Warshauer was pivotal to her
personal growth. “Max was not only a mentor but
also a sponsor for me,” she says, noting that her
two brothers also attended and benefited from
the camp. “I’m one of the students that — without
the financial sponsorships he acquired over the
years — would have never been able to attend camp.
Without his continuous effort and drive, camp
would not be as awesome as it is today.”
For his dedication, Warshauer has received a
number of awards from the university, the state,
and national science organizations. “It’s not an
individual award, though,” he says. “It’s the team
we’ve built.” The team showcases mathematics
professors as well as several computer science and
 engineering faculty members who have guided
Mathworks participants on what Warshauer calls
“incredible research projects.”
He adds that the backing of Texas State
administrators Dr. Christine Hailey, dean of the
College of Science and Engineering, and Dr. Susan
Morey, chair of the Department of Mathematics,
has been vital to the program’s success.
Warshauer is especially appreciative of such
organizations as the National Science Foundation,
the Siemens Foundation, and the Fund for the
Improvement of Postsecondary Education for
contributing more than $11 million in grants and
donations, as well as for an active and supportive
Mathworks Steering Committee.
Calculating a formula for the future

Where does Mathworks go from here? “We
want to sustain the Mathworks legacy for future
generations,” Warshauer says. “This program
reaches out to students who may not have any
money at all. Some students can afford to come, but
many could not attend the program without support.”
Perhaps most importantly, the Mathworks
programs provide a unique setting for preparing
future teachers who serve as Mathworks Fellows to
research and develop best practices in the teaching
and learning of mathematics.
Dr. Dan Perry, assistant vice president for
University Advancement, credits Mathworks
with echoing the early mission of Texas State as a
research university, “Mathworks bridges our legacy as a teacher’s
college and our vision to become a national
research university,” he says. “Over the last 30
years, Mathworks has grown from a small summer
camp for talented high school students to a thriving
research center.
“Texas State seeks to grow the Mathworks
endowment to $6 million to provide a sustainable
source of funding for faculty and graduate students
to pioneer new and innovative methods to advance
teacher effectiveness in math education,” Perry says.
In his role as a faculty member, Patterson
hopes to extend the program’s outreach to students
who need academic enrichment in mathematics.
He says Mathworks can be a space for learning how
students think mathematically and how teachers
develop their skills. “Mathworks is an ideal place
for doing cutting-edge work at the intersection of
research and practice in mathematics education,”
Patterson says. “We have the opportunity each
summer to work with hundreds of enthusiastic
children in a setting where they are not bound to a
specific curriculum, pacing calendar, or end-of
course exam.”

“The program is preparing a new leadership in our country so we can be competitive with the best students in the world.” — Dr. Max Warshauer