



Dear SMU Community,

Today we announced an illustrious gift from Jan and Trevor D. Rees-Jones '78 to SMU. The couple's generous commitment is the largest gift benefitting SMU Libraries that has yet been given during *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the University's multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact. Building on the University's longstanding excellence in the examination, teaching, and cultural appreciation of the American West, this gift will strengthen SMU's reputation as a vital center for education and research on related topics.

At the center of the couple's gift is a significant portion of the expansive Rees-Jones Collection consisting of thousands of items – including rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, and ephemera related to the American West. The Rees-Jones Collection will complement existing SMU strengths in the DeGolyer Library collections on related topics, comparing favorably with the holdings of some of the best institutional collections in the country devoted to the history of the American West. The gift also enhances strong programs and curricula related to the American West in the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, the Clements Department of History, SMU-in-Taos, and several other academic departments.

The donors have also committed \$25 million to establish and build the Rees-Jones Library of the American West and a \$5 million endowment to support the library and its collections. Through their combined gift, Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones will further our understanding of this critical period in American history and

provide a trove of educational and contextual material related to the discovery, exploration, and settlement of the trans-Mississippi West.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones for their enduring commitment to the University's instruction, conservation, and research related to the American West.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Gerald Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

R. Gerald Turner
SMU President