

# GIFT OF A BRIGHT FUTURE



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TIMOTHY BOONE, MD, PHD, PICTURED ABOVE GIVING A CLASSROOM LECTURE

## TWO PHILANTHROPIC COUPLES COMMIT \$10 MILLION TO ENMED

Craig Brown and Sue Smith and Frank and Jean Raymond became excited after hearing about EnMed’s groundbreaking combination of engineering and medicine. Each couple generously directed \$1 million to endow chairs for EnMed leaders and \$4 million to fund Capstone Innovator Awards.

Holding these newly created endowed chairs are Dr. Timothy Boone and Dr. Alessandro Grattoni. Dr. Boone, who co-leads EnMed at Houston Methodist, holds the Craig C. Brown and Suzanne H. Smith Centennial Chair in Medical Education. He is also the director of the Houston Methodist Education Institute and is the associate dean of Texas A&M University College of Medicine’s Houston Regional Campus. Dr. Grattoni, chair of the Department of Nanomedicine, now holds the Frank J. and Jean Raymond Centennial Chair in Medical Education and will oversee EnMed students’ portfolio projects at the Houston Methodist Research Institute.

Brown, who received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University, and his wife, Smith, were early adopters of the EnMed program and hope other donors will share their enthusiasm.

“Since it is built on the outstanding reputations of Texas A&M and Houston Methodist — and their common values of selfless service and care — EnMed is one of the most transformational programs in the world,” Brown says. “EnMed donors can see the difference they will make in the lives of so many people. These students will take what they’ve learned in the classrooms, labs and hospital rooms and apply that knowledge to solve real-world medical problems.”

Brown and Smith inspired Frank Raymond, Brown’s retired business partner, and Frank’s wife, Jean, to also invest. “EnMed is very exciting to me,” says Frank Raymond. “Being an engineer myself, I know how a good engineer looks at solving problems. Training students with engineering talent to be medical doctors is one of the finest ideas I’ve heard in all my years in the business world.”

Craig Brown and Sue Smith have supported both Texas A&M University and EnMed students, including Zachary Richards. Their transformational gift provides a Centennial Chair for Dr. Timothy Boone and funding for portfolio projects through the Craig C. Brown and Suzanne H. Smith EnMed Capstone Innovator Awards.

ENMED STUDENT ZACHARY RICHARDS AND CRAIG BROWN AND SUE SMITH



Jean Raymond was impressed by what she saw while visiting Houston Methodist facilities. "I was in a state of shock," she notes. "It is eye-opening to peek in and see some of the research that's going on. They're not just taking care of patients; they're trying to solve unbelievable problems, and we are fortunate to be able to help."

"I was very impressed with all of the talent in the program," Frank adds. "I think EnMed's innovative approach will lead to new and better ideas being developed. It's a major way to help the public in the years ahead. I'm wowed to think about what the results can be down the road."

Supporting EnMed aligns with the Raymonds' other philanthropic endeavors. In addition to providing educational aid through scholarships at Texas A&M, they created a program named The Frank and

Jean Raymond Ideas Challenge. The program is designed to help turn students' entrepreneurial ideas into innovative products or services, and the winners receive cash awards after presenting in a day-long competition overseen by roughly 100 judges. The couple also contributes each year to a similar program at California State University, Fullerton in support of international students.

## INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Smith says she believes one of EnMed's standout features is portfolio projects, supported by funding from both couples. For their own personal portfolio projects, students are required to invent translational medical technology with the potential for commercialization.

"Since portfolio projects integrate innovation and commercialization, students will not only invent

things using their engineering skills but will also learn what it takes to make their ideas practical and commercialize them," says Smith. "As a result, EnMed graduates will transform health care, and patients will be the greatest beneficiaries."

Dr. Grattoni agrees this focus on innovation and technology differentiates EnMed from other medical schools and programs. "We look forward to seeing students' new ideas and initiatives to address medical needs, and our senior laboratory staff will help develop them," he says.

Student Zachary Richards, who Brown and Smith supported as a Craig & Galen Brown Foundation Scholar at Texas A&M, says he enrolled in EnMed because it offers a unique and unprecedented opportunity to pursue his passions in both medicine and engineering. "I want to be a proficient clinician, and I want to use my engineering skills to develop the next generation

of lifesaving technologies," he explains. "With its resources for budding innovators, EnMed is the perfect place to do this."

Smith says that Richards was elected as class representative by both his EnMed and College of Medicine cohorts. "We are very proud of Zac for his leadership and what we know he will do," she says. "Because this inaugural class is setting the precedent, we think he's setting a very high bar for what this program is and for what the promise of EnMed will do for the future of medicine."

Dr. Boone is already awestruck by EnMed's first class of students. "They are very bright and energetic," he says. "We see a vast range of possibilities in what they will invent, be it new imaging or diagnostic techniques, therapeutic equipment, pharmaceuticals or nanomedicine drug delivery devices. We expect them to be leaders who will bring energy, innovation and solutions to their disciplines."



ALESSANDRO GRATTONI, PHD AND JEAN AND FRANK RAYMOND

Frank and Jean Raymond gave generously to fund portfolio projects through the Frank J. and Jean Raymond EnMed Capstone Innovator Awards and to create a Centennial Chair

now held by Alessandro Grattoni, PhD, who will supervise EnMed students' portfolio projects in the Houston Methodist Research Institute.