

# Support Systems

By Audrey Webb

Darren Casey



If you haven't seen the name Darren B. Casey on the Texas State campus, it's been too long since you've visited San Marcos.

In March 2008, Casey, a San Antonio-based businessman, made a very generous donation to the university's athletic program; the athletic administration complex now bears his name. The building's namesake does not limit his philanthropic gestures to only one department, however; Casey, who graduated from Texas State with a B.B.A. in 1981, also supports the business college from a financial, personal and professional perspective.

Casey's reasons for contributing to McCoy College on multiple levels are based in gratitude for its impact on his livelihood. He has used the skills he learned to establish a lengthy career as one of the state's most notable real estate developers. "The business school is the foundation and basis of my

successes and where I am in my career today. It all started at Texas State. I'm extremely proud of my degree. Texas State is in my heart and soul as a businessman and as a Bobcat — I'm a Bobcat for life," says Casey.

One way that Casey demonstrates his belief in the quality of the college is to provide employment for several recent graduates. He recognizes and values the attributes McCoy College instills in its students: "The graduates have a work ethic that doesn't include a sense of entitlement. They understand the importance of business ethics. Their learning curve is much quicker than it was when I graduated. The quality of the graduates keeps getting better and better. They have great intellectual skills and a strong grasp of finance. McCoy College students are very competitive and competent, ready to enter the business world. I would put my Texas State grads up against any other university any day," he says.

The boundless Bobcat pride Casey exudes goes beyond the students to the administration, faculty, staff and other key figures in McCoy College. His respect for those who also support the college raises his enthusiasm for continued involvement. "When you have business leaders like the McCoy family, who stepped up for our business college, it's easy to get on board," he says. His commitment provides him with a sense of community and camaraderie with others who bolster the McCoy experience.

This past spring in front of

friends, family and colleagues, Casey unveiled a plaque in McCoy Hall honoring him for endowing the Darren Casey Professorship in Business. Casey's pride was evident as he shared that he never would have imagined his name on a plaque next to Sam Barshop, founder of La Quinta Inns and Barshop & Oles Company, another benefactor of McCoy College and someone he greatly admired.

Casey's drive to excel in his career and stay engaged in his community has earned him great recognition on the Texas State campus. He was selected as a distinguished alumnus in 2009. Beyond Texas State, his strength as a fundraiser for educational purposes also has been noted. Casey recently was crowned the 68th "El Rey Feo" during San Antonio's annual Fiesta in recognition of raising \$501,555 for scholarships, an amount that crushed the previous record by approximately \$70,000. His support of Texas State and McCoy College has garnered him support in kind. Among those on hand to watch his coronation were President Trauth, Dean Smart and other members of Texas State and the McCoy College. Knowing that his university stands behind him in all of his community efforts lets Casey know that Bobcat pride in its alumni is alive and well. "My university was there big and large and proud to support me," Casey says. "And that meant a lot to me."