



## 1960s JAGDEV "JAG" SINGH CHEEMA '67

The road to the Island University is different for everyone, but in the case of Jagdev Singh Cheema, it began in India. Cheema's first stop in the U.S. was in California, but his sense of adventure and love for western movies soon found him bound for Texas. The University of Corpus Christi was not only the place Cheema would earn a business degree from in 1967; but also the place he found the love of his life, Linda, a fellow UCC student.

Jag Cheema had a long and illustrious career in sales and financial advising, which took him and his family to New Mexico for many years. He retired in 2020 as Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo, and he and Linda now split time between New Mexico and a recently purchased Corpus Christi home.

"We have a history here, a connection, and Linda has always had a soft spot in her heart for Corpus Christi," Jag Cheema said.

As a former UCC tennis player, Jag Cheema formed a special bond with staff and students in Islanders Athletics, and in 2011, the Cheemas created an endowed scholarship for Islander student-athletes. In 2016, the couple established a second endowed scholarship for first-generation Islander business students. Cheema said he inherited a spirit of giving from his father, and together with his wife, the couple feels called to give back to the

university that gave them so much.

"My father told me to judge your success not by how much money you have, but by how happy you are. If you're not happy, you're not successful," Jag Cheema said.

Beyond their philanthropic donations, the Cheemas say meeting the students impacted by their generosity is a highlight for them.

"We tell the students, 'you owe us nothing,' but if they want to do one little thing, we would like them to help someone else when they are in the position to do so," Jag Cheema said.

In fall 2021, the couple donated funds to purchase new equipment for the recently renovated Islanders Athletics Field House weight room. The complex, renamed the Jag and Linda Cheema Sports Performance Facility, serves as the weight training home for all 16 Islanders Athletics programs.



## 1970s TERRY BURROWES '70

A Tarpon from the Class of 1970, Terry Burrowes, a native of New York, majored in speech so he could pursue a career in the performing arts.

"It was through the university that I got the opportunity to be on stage and audition for a play at the Little Theatre — now called the Harbor Playhouse," Burrowes said.

As a member of the UCC Choir, Burrowes sang under the baton of Dr. Melton James. Burrowes was also captain of the cheerleading squad, where he fondly remembers cheering for the basketball team, which included the legendary Roy Ford, '71. Additionally, Burrowes was a DJ on KUCC, where soul music and rock were his favorites to play.

"My on-air name was Terry B," he recalled. "The station was only heard on campus, but it was special to us."

Burrowes and his graduating class were unable to walk the stage for graduation, as Hurricane Celia ravaged the Coastal Bend on Aug. 3, 1970, destroying much of Ward Island in its wake. Fifty years later, in 2020, Burrowes made the journey from his New Jersey home to TAMU-CC for Homecoming Week.

"The campus was beautiful," he said. "To see the current dorms and remember what it was like living in Miller Hall... to see the round library, where the 1970 hurricane had caused such devastation. I helped clean up the debris, along with others."

Burrowes had a successful career as a theatre company owner, international educator, educational administrator, and volunteer EMT, and is now enjoying retirement. He says the formative experiences he had at UCC helped shape his professional career in the decades that followed.

"I had the opportunity to do things at UCC that no one said could not be done," he said. "There were no nay sayers."

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