

# Jack M. Gill, PhD

## 2021 GCEC Legacy Award Nomination



Professor of the Practice of Entrepreneurship  
Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University

Current/Previous Appointments include Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer, and Instructor  
at Indiana University, MIT, Harvard Medical School, and Lamar University

B.S. '58 Lamar University | Chemistry and Electrical Engineering

PhD '62 Indiana University | Organic Chemistry

Founder, 1975 – AutoLab (Scientific Instrument Company)

Co-Founder, 1981 – Vanguard Ventures (Silicon Valley Venture Capital firm)

Co-Founder, 1997 – Gill Foundation of Texas (Charitable Foundation Supporting Education)

Inductee, 1999 – Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans

*Supporting college scholarships for low-income students facing severe adversities*

Co-Founder, 2005 – GOOSE Capital (formerly GOOSE Society of Texas, Super Angel Group)

*Providing the Grand Prize at the Rice Business Plan Competition*

Recipient, 2020 – Indiana University Bicentennial Medal

Nomination Submitted by:

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Brad Burke, Managing Director

Rice Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship

Rice University

[bburke@rice.edu](mailto:bburke@rice.edu) / 713-594-5750



**GCEC Legacy Award Nomination for Jack Gill, PhD, Successful Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist, Philanthropist and Educator, including Professor of the Practice of Entrepreneurship at Rice University**

It is my personal honor to nominate Dr. Jack Gill for the 2021 GCEC Legacy Award. Jack's extraordinary, multi-decade commitment to entrepreneurship education and his passion for supporting and mentoring students epitomize the definition of this legacy award. At age 85, Jack is finally "retiring" as an entrepreneurship educator after 21 years of teaching courses and bootcamps involving more than 25 universities. Teaching entrepreneurship to masters and doctorate students of business, engineering, and science has been his passion, and now is an ideal time to recognize his remarkable contributions.

Most successful entrepreneurs and venture capitalists pursue a relaxing retirement. Not Jack. Since 1997, the Jack & Linda Gill Foundation of Texas has donated more than \$40 million to educational institutions and scholarship programs. Moreover, he has spent much of his personal time pioneering and teaching entrepreneurship courses, creating co-curricular entrepreneurship programs, supporting nascent entrepreneurship centers, and fostering the Houston entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Dr. Jack Gill truly embodies the entrepreneurial American Dream. He grew up poor in rural Lufkin, Texas, as the son of parents who never finished high school but imbued in their children the value of education. Now, leveraging his professional successes, Jack's overriding passion is to help young people benefit from education, and especially to benefit from understanding the importance and opportunity of entrepreneurship. He often says: "I strongly believe that education plays the critical role for success in life. Education enables the best opportunities for personal growth and development, career and professional achievement, income and family security, and success in building satisfying relationships."

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Dr. Gill's leadership in advancing entrepreneurship education and supporting university entrepreneurship centers has created an enduring impact on students and academic institutions. His distinguished record can be described in five main areas:

1. Pioneered and taught cross-discipline, cross-campus, and cross-institutional, graduate-level entrepreneurship courses and co-curricular programs on a large scale, involving 25+ institutions.
2. Made a major impact on at least 3 entrepreneurship centers, including Rice University, Indiana University, and Lamar University.
3. Made a substantial impact on the careers of numerous graduate-level students in business, engineering, science, and medicine from multiple, highly regarded academic institutions.
4. Provided generous philanthropy of over \$40 million toward university education, supporting more than 25 endowed faculty chairs and providing over 200 four-year scholarships through the Horatio Alger Association to low-income high school students facing adversity to pursue higher education.
5. Supported the 2009 GCEC Conference held at Rice University. Gave keynote address and raised \$40,000 in donations, helping to make the 2009 GCEC Conference the largest up to that time.

**A long-term commitment to entrepreneurship in an academic setting, either as a faculty member, educator, and/or center or institute director.**

Over the past 21 years (from 2000 to 2021), Jack has dedicated himself to entrepreneurship education, launching entrepreneurship courses and co-curricular programs. Jack created and taught the course "Roles of Physicians and Scientists in the Business World" (HST 906) at **Harvard Medical School** from 2000 to 2008. He launched and taught the IAP course "High Tech Startups" for engineers and scientists at **MIT** from 2001 to 2010. At **Rice University**, he founded and taught the course "Role of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers in High-tech Startups | Life Science Entrepreneurship" (MGMT / BIOE 633) from

2007 to 2019. He also co-founded “Velocity: Accelerating Entrepreneurs” (BUKD-N560) at **Indiana University** and has lectured at that program from 2000 to today.

In 2011, Jack co-founded “Ignite: Fueling Tomorrow’s Entrepreneurs” (MGMT 765) at Rice and has lectured at this program from 2011 to today. These courses and programs are cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional, involving PhD, MS, MBA, and MD students in engineering, science, and business.

Jack has actively supported the **entrepreneurship centers** at **Indiana University** and **Lamar University** (his alma maters) and at **Rice University** in Houston, his adopted home. At Indiana University, he established the Jack Gill Chair of Entrepreneurship, first held by Dr. Betsy Gatewood, and now held by Dr. Don Kuratko. He launched the Velocity entrepreneurship program at Indiana, which has drawn over 700 graduate students. At Lamar University, his \$500,000 donation in 2017 helped to create the **Center for Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship** (CICE), led by Director Paul Latiolais.

At Rice University, Jack has provided his support as a **Professor of the Practice of Entrepreneurship** for nearly 20 years. In addition to launching the **Ignite Entrepreneurship Program** in 2011 and the **Life Science Entrepreneurship Course** in 2007, Jack co-founded the “**GOOSE Society of Texas**” in 2005 and grew the organization from six founding members to 25. This group of super-angel investors created and provides the annual first grand prize at the Rice Business Plan Competition. That prize has been the primary catalyst to propel the RBPC to become the world’s largest and richest student startup competition. The impact of the GOOSE’s involvement in the RBPC and the Rice Business School cannot be overstated. GOOSE has played a key role in the awareness of the Rice’s graduate entrepreneurship program and its current #1 ranking by the Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine.

To-date, GOOSE has invested more than \$20 million in RBPC student startups from schools such as Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, UCLA, Dartmouth, UT-Austin, and Georgia State. (None of these RBPC startups are from Rice). In addition, GOOSE capital has invested another \$30 million in non-student startups, mostly from the Houston region, helping to drive the Houston entrepreneurial ecosystem.

**Achieved a standard of excellence in an area of university-affiliated entrepreneurship and made a substantial impact upon students, faculty, staff, startups, and/or region, or contributed to the enhancement of other entrepreneurship programs at other universities.**

Jack’s entrepreneurial teachings have reached students from at least 26 universities, where he has taught a class or bootcamp or lecture, or whose students have attended his programs, including:

Baylor College of Medicine	Memorial Hermann Hospital	University of California, Berkeley
St. Luke’s Medical Center	Rice University	University of California, Davis
Boston University	Southern Methodist University	University of Houston
DePauw University	Stanford University	University of Kentucky
Harvard Medical School	Texas A&M University	University of Southern California
Houston Methodist Hospital	Texas Children’s Hospital	University of Texas at Austin
Indiana University	Texas Heart Institute	UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Lamar University	Texas State University	UT Medical Branch, Galveston
MIT	University College London	

In total, more than 5,000 students have taken Jack’s courses, which have featured presentations by more than 150 guest speakers, mostly successful entrepreneurs and venture capitalists. Students have called Jack’s courses: “inspirational”, “must-take”, “amazing”, “best class I have ever taken”, “pivotal”, “energy packed”, “eye opening” and “unlike any class in med school or graduate school”. See attachment for additional testimonials.

More than 2,000 students have taken Jack's "Life Science Entrepreneurship" class at Rice University; this is the highest enrollment of ANY course offered by the Rice Business School. Because Jack strongly believes in combining students from different disciplines, his course was one of the first that Rice Business opened to ANY Rice graduate student across campus, especially to PhD Engineering and Science students. It also was the first Rice Business School course opened to graduate students from any of the Texas Medical Center institutions.

At a deeper personal level, Jack is very proud of the Teaching Assistants (TAs) he has selected over the years. He has mentored each of them personally, and most have gone on to amazing careers in venture capital, startups, or academic institutions. 52% of his TAs selected have been women, and he has focused on encouraging and supporting women to pursue entrepreneurial careers in life sciences companies. Examples include Joanna Nathan, Manager of New Ventures at Johnson & Johnson's Center for Device Innovation; Triparna Ghosh, Manager at saleSEER; and Samantha Paulsen, Scientist at Cytiva (formerly GE Life Sciences). As one TA said, "Meeting Jack and getting the knowledge and access that I got through his class really was transformative to my career." See attachment with profiles of all TAs.

Jack's "Life Science Entrepreneurship" course strongly encourages networking and, in 2012, directly led to the formation of the Enventure organization by his TAs and students. Enventure is now an established group that provides vital education, networking, and support to aspiring life science entrepreneurs in the Houston region. More than 3,000 students and over 45 startups have benefited from Enventure programming.

**The individual should have made a highly significant contribution to the advancement of entrepreneurship in one or more of the following areas: center development and growth, enhanced quality of offerings and reputation, curriculum and degree program development, co-curricular programming, university-wide entrepreneurship, community engagement and engaged participants from traditionally underrepresented groups.**

In addition to Jack's contributions to center development, enhanced offerings, reputation, curriculum, co-curricular programs, and university-wide entrepreneurship discussed above, at a community level, Jack Gill has contributed more to the Houston region's entrepreneurship community than any other successful entrepreneur. He is unique in his willingness to put not only his money but his time to support entrepreneurship. Through the GOOSE Society of Texas (now called GOOSE Capital), he has activated a group of 25 high-net-worth individuals into a group of super angel investors who are now willing to invest in tech startups. As mentioned above, this group has now invested over \$50 million in tech startups and has become one of the leading early-stage investment groups in Houston.

At a charitable level, Jack established his Foundation in 1997 and made gifts of over \$40 million to academic institutions and scholarships. He has endowed 25 faculty chairs and provided over 200 college scholarships to low-income students through the Horatio Alger Association. He takes great pride in his induction into the Horatio Alger Association, a remarkable organization whose members overcame personal adversity, achieved great success, and now wish to "pay it forward" by providing college scholarships to underprivileged students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

**GCEC Organization:** Jack raised \$40,000 in funding for the 2009 GCEC Conference at Rice University, the largest donation to the conference. In addition, Jack spoke as a keynote at the 2009 GCEC Conference, and encouraged two other local entrepreneurs to speak as keynotes as well, including NASA astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris, who received a standing ovation.

**Honors and Awards:** Jack has been honored by several organizations, including receiving the USASBE John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Advocacy in 2014. A list of his awards is attached. However, the GCEC Legacy award would be especially meaningful to him due to his close relationship with Indiana University and Rice University, and his passion for entrepreneurship education.

## **Supplemental Information**

### **Jack M. Gill, PhD**

#### **2021 GCEC Legacy Award Nomination**

- Supporting Letters
  - Dr. Steve Currall, President (former), University of South Florida
  - Paul Latiolais, Director, Center for Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship (CICE), Lamar University
- The Story of Jack Gill and his Dedication to Education, Cardinal Cadence publication from Lamar University, 2000
- Jack Gill: Honors and Recognition, Non-Profit Board Participation
- Jack Gill Course: “Role of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers in High-tech Startups | Life Science Entrepreneurship” (MGMT / BIOE 633)
  - Facts about the Course
  - Teaching Assistants: Where are they Now?
  - Teaching Assistants: Testimonials
  - Student Feedback about the Course

**Steven C. Currall, PhD**  
President, University of South Florida (2019 – 2021)

14 August 2021

Legacy Award Committee  
Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Dr. Jack Gill for the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (GCEC) Legacy Award. For decades, Dr. Gill has had a transformational impact on entrepreneurial ecosystems at universities and in cities around the world.

I have known Dr. Gill since the 1990s when I was a professor at Rice University, at which time I also served, from 2000-2005, as the Founding Director of the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship. Although I initially came to know Jack during his time as the Founder of Vanguard Venture Partners, a successful venture capital firm in Palo Alto, CA and Houston, TX, our collaboration intensified as he expanded his instructional roles at Rice and as a mentor to me in our partnership to develop the Rice Business Plan Competition.

In addition to supporting hundreds of entrepreneurs in his role as a venture capitalist, perhaps his greatest legacy as a supporter of entrepreneurship has been as a professor of practice at numerous universities and as a tireless mentor to thousands of young entrepreneurs in university settings.

I have observed first-hand Dr. Gill's instructional brilliance at universities such as Rice, University College London, University of California, Davis, Southern Methodist University, and the University of South Florida. In his work with entrepreneurs, often in the context of courses he has offered, Dr. Gill has achieved a rare feat: He has both *educated* and *inspired* young adults to have the courage to pursue their entrepreneurial goals at pivotal points in their lives when they needed a role model to pursue their dreams and overcome uncertainty. Indeed, MBA students told me that the most impactful experience in their entire MBA program was Dr. Gill's teaching and inspiration. It truly transformed their life trajectories.

Jack has had a profound impact on my career as well. As I have held university roles at several institutions, I have continuously asked Jack to teach my students, mentor them, and inspire them to pursue new entrepreneurial opportunities. His impact has also extended beyond the student population. I have asked Jack to speak to faculty and senior administrative leaders on topics relating to regional economic development and how to build mature philanthropic relationships with donors. Once again, he has illuminated, even to mature leaders, that more is possible by having ambitious goals and by working in concert with university, entrepreneurial, and state government leaders to leverage available resources to promote innovations in entrepreneurial program development.

Dr. Gill would be an extraordinarily worthy recipient of the GCEC Legacy Award. Please contact me if you wish additional information.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Currall, Ph.D.  
Professor of Information Systems and Management  
Former President  
University of South Florida



**LAMAR UNIVERSITY™**

Center for Innovation, Commercialization  
and Entrepreneurship

August 15, 2021

RE: Nomination for Dr. Jack Gill for GCEC Legacy Award

Dr. Jack Gill has been a major influence on Lamar University's Center for Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, CICE. Dr. Gill was involved early in the Center's planning, helping to set high standards for what it was to accomplish and impact on the university, the region, and the state of Texas. Jack brought in influencers from his network as guest speakers and helped to guide the Center's objectives to create a culture of innovation at Lamar University.

Dr. Gill has been the Chair of the CICE Advisory Board from the early days, bringing in new advisors to sit on the board and guide its development. These influencers helped contribute to the longevity of the Center and help make important decisions on its growth path. During the application process to create a new building dedicated to the principals of the CICE, Dr. Gill was a strong supporter of the initiative and contributed \$1M between the CICE and the College of Engineering to accelerate the cause.

Dr. Gill brought a sense of urgency to the university to embrace technology entrepreneurship – a legacy that continues today. He influenced the administration to take up the cause of entrepreneurship and helped bring the topic into focus in the classroom. The CICE under Jack's influence was able to attract technology-based entrepreneurs and help coach them to success. Dr. Gill provided multiple Innovation Bootcamps with recognized speakers to encourage entrepreneurship across the region. Finally, Jack led a campaign to recognize the hard work of innovative faculty by providing Faculty Fellowships – in all, 12 key faculty members were recognized and given incentives.

All the work Dr. Gill provided Lamar University has greatly enhanced our ability to establish and promote technology entrepreneurship across campus in multiple disciplines. Dr. Gill's keen insight and emphasis on the major disciplines – science, engineering, business, and medicine – has made a tangible impact on the university's and the CICE's ability to establish entrepreneurship as a core to the mission. I highly support Dr. Gill's nomination for a legacy award in promoting entrepreneurship.

Best Regards,

*Paul Latiolais*

Paul Latiolais

Director, Center for Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship (CICE)  
Lamar University, Beaumont, TX

# Return Policy

Giving to education from the fruits of success brings great satisfaction to the Gill family



Education centers pivotally in the Gill family history. In the generation before Jack Gill, formal education is conspicuous in its absence. In succeeding generations, it is noteworthy in its abundance — and in its effect.

To the great benefit of many colleges and universities, including Lamar University, the family has adopted a very generous “return policy” — giving more than \$25 million in gifts since 1985 and much personal time as champions for education. To help manage their philanthropy, they established the Gill Foundation in 1997.

It has been a long way from humble beginnings to tremendous influence for Jack Gill. Born in the blue-collar town of Lufkin in 1936, Jack was the fourth of six children for Samuel and Beulah Gill. Neither of his parents was able to complete an education. Jack’s father lost both his parents by the time he was 8 years old, and, as he and his siblings were forced to care for themselves, leaving school after the fifth grade. Jack’s mother was one of nine children reared on a farm, none of whom completed high school.

“I never wanted for a meal,” Jack says, “but I was always aware that we were a very poor family.”

A principled man and self-taught, Samuel drove heavy equipment, working 12-hour days, six days a week to make ends meet. Jack found his father wise beyond his limited education: “He knew what an education could do for a person and he always told me, ‘If you don’t want to work as long and hard as I do, then get yourself an education. That’s the secret to a better life.’”

Fueled by desire for that better life, Jack entered the world of

work at age 8 behind a lawnmower. By age 10, he was janitor of his church, parlaying his earnings into “store-bought” shirts that were a luxury in a time of hand-me-downs.

Gill’s parents were strict Baptists who believed in hard work, honesty, integrity, discipline and responsibility, values they lovingly imparted to their children. Still, Jack felt insecure as a child and overshadowed by his older siblings who excelled either athletically or academically. Searching for an area in which to excel, he began to develop an interest in the sciences. Soon, he had created a small laboratory in a garage storage room and spent many hours tinkering there.

He also began working at the local grocery store, for the first time making measurable money. His thoughts turned to college. “I knew it would be up to me,” Jack said. “My parents made it clear that they could not pay for college.”

After graduating near the top of his class, Gill and a friend moved to Beaumont to be near Lamar University. He worked 40 hours a week at a grocery store while earning a degree in four years in two demanding areas of study, chemistry and engineering.

After graduating with honors in both subjects, he considered medical school, but found no way to finance it. Instead, he won teaching assistantships and fellowships, which paid for graduate school at Indiana University. There he excelled in organic and biochemistry, bypassing the master’s program and earning his Ph.D. in four years.

“I realized when the first grades came in that I could compete with the best and the brightest from any school, and that my undergraduate education at Lamar had been excellent,” Jack said.

In 1963, Jack became a scientist and engineer for Monsanto. Chromatography was a newly invented technique to identify complex chemical compounds, and his strong science and engineering background allowed him to pioneer the field. Soon, he was publishing scientific papers, inventing new techniques, designing ground-breaking chromatography instruments and traveling and lecturing all over the world.

In 1965, Jack took a job in California as vice president of research and development for Wilkins. Later, the company was acquired by Varian Associates. While he found his experience rewarding, Gill was working for a salary only. In entrepreneurial spirit, he decided to found his own company, Autolab, which created the world’s first micro-processor-based instruments and computers for use in laboratories. After three years, the company merged into Spectra Physics Inc., and Gill served as group president and co-chief operations officer.

By this time, Jack was uncomfortable in the large company environment and he left at the age of 40, to found Vanguard Venture Partners, today one of the nation's leading high-tech venture capital firms.

"The high-tech venture capital business is today perhaps the most important component driving the U.S. and world economy," Jack said. "This generation of new companies and technologies has made a huge impact on not just the business world, but on the way we live and the way we work. And now change and innovation is accelerating."

He is in demand for his experience, as one of only a few executives with more than three decades of experience in Silicon Valley. "More businesses have been founded, more jobs created, more market value created, more taxes paid to government, more products exported by the high tech industries of Silicon Valley than in any other time or place in the history in the world."

While Jack thoroughly enjoys his venture successes, he has kept his foot in the academic door throughout his career. He is adjunct professor at Rice University and Indiana University and lectures extensively on a worldwide basis. He also frequently speaks to high school and university students on the value of high-tech careers.

"I enjoy spending time with young people," Jack says. "If you want to act young, feel young, think young and be young, then you hang around with young people. What better place to do that than a college campus?"



Photographs of the Gill family find prominent display throughout the offices of the Gill Foundation on the 15th floor of a high rise in the Galleria area of Houston, testament to the importance of family relationships, however far flung they may be. Traditional East Texas and Kentucky values may have guided Jack and Linda in helping their four children avoid "affluenza" – the potential down side of today's children growing up in wealthy environments.

Their twin sons Jason and Tyler at 12 were the only children in their affluent Palo Alto neighborhood to have a paper route. Beginning at 5:30 a.m., they delivered the San Jose Mercury to the driveways and

doorsteps of some of the richest households in America.

"In the boys' minds they were behind the power curve (in allowance)," Jack said. "Our strategy was to keep them on the lean side of average." So, when they wanted more, the response was "encouragement" to get out and earn it.

"I felt good about their learning a good work ethic, but other parents couldn't believe the Gills would allow that," Jack said. But, the boys enjoyed it and also learned to save half of their earnings, "Valuable lessons in today's world."

Today, after college and several years working in high-tech, both have returned to academia and are in the first year of MBA programs, Jason at Indiana University and Tyler at the University of Chicago. Both expect to return to the business side of the high-tech world, Jack said.

The Gills' eldest son, Jeff, is a researcher at California Polytechnical Institute, applying scientific rigor to the analysis of voter behavior. His career path has been anything but direct. After high school, his eclectic interests took him into a brief music career as co-founder and guitarist of a successful hard rock band.

After an assault outside a Hollywood bar one night, Jeff spent a month in the hospital. He determined not only to accept his father's offer of college, but declared that he would excel and land a position with IBM. It seemed improbable to Jack that Jeff could make such a transition, though he never doubted his resolve or his intelligence.

Freshly shorn and sworn to serious work, Jeff excelled in his last two years at UCLA, making a successful transition from hard rocker to Big Blue (IBM). There he worked for several years as a programmer, before returning to academia for an MBA and dual Ph.D.s in statistical mathematics and political science. This summer, he will join the faculty of the University of Florida.

"As a parent, don't give up on them, for anything's possible,"

Jack said. "Jeff's a real delight in our family and is now beginning to distinguish himself academically. Someday he'll be teaching at Harvard or Stanford."

Daughter Jennifer is also a delight to the Gills. "She was the one who always exceeded every

**VANGUARD**  
VENTURE PARTNERS  
Founded in 1981 in Palo Alto, Calif.

**\$255 million capital invested to date in high-tech companies.**

**Vanguard-backed companies have:**

- Created over 20,000 jobs
- \$5 billion annual sales
- Made over 100 millionaires
- Created \$60 billion in market value
- Returned \$1 billion to investors

expectation," Jack said. "The one every teacher thought should major in their profession."

With two years of undergraduate work at MIT, she transferred to Stanford, earning a bachelor's in electrical engineering. Master's work at the University of Texas followed. Her vita includes work for Sun Microsystems, where she managed about 100 engineers developing microprocessors. After four years at a break-neck pace – "Four years at Sun, she said, was like 10 years at any ordinary place" – she returned to Stanford to earn her M.B.A. She is now a partner at a leading venture capital firm and has found success in that arena as well.

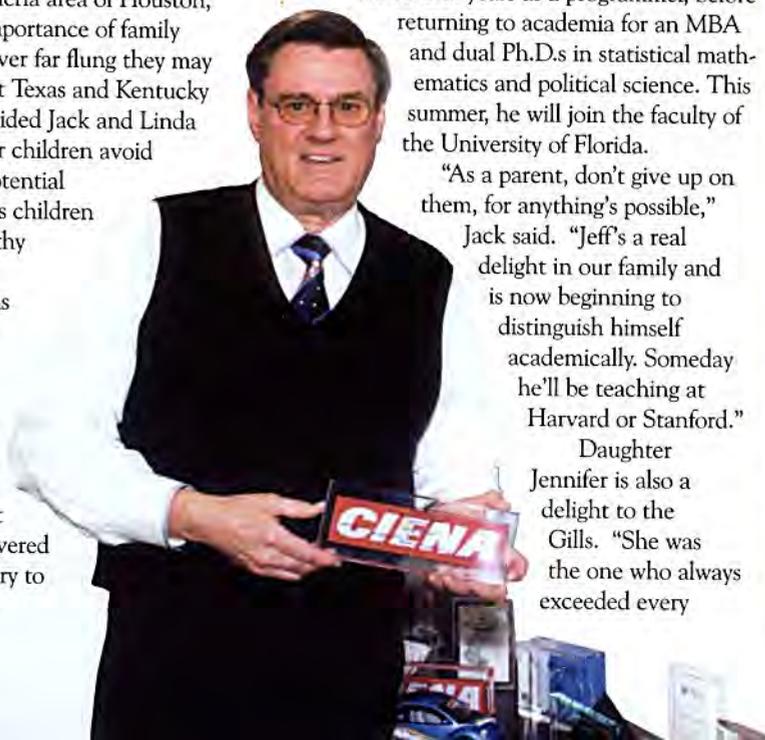
While at Stanford, Jennifer became mindful of the difficulties faced by women entrepreneurs in the high-tech world dominated by men, and founded Stanford Women Entrepreneurial Alliance, an on-campus networking organization to address the issue at the university level. After graduation, she founded the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs (FWE) which today has more than 850 members and chapters in Silicon Valley and Seattle.

"FWE has become a very prestigious, important organization in Silicon Valley," Jack said. "There is a whole new group of dynamic women achievers in recent years in areas previously dominated by men. Of all of Jennifer's achievements, we're most proud of her founding FWE."



"Education is the great enabler," Jack said. "We live it, talk it, breathe it and hope to instill it in our children and our grandchildren."

"We emphasize the importance of education because it worked not only for me, but also for Linda," Jack said. Reared in a tobacco-farming family, Linda's college education was made possible through a scholarship. Not only did Linda and Jack



stress education for their own children (who together hold degrees from a dozen institutions), but they are making education a major philanthropic thrust through the Gill Foundation, as well as through direct gifts and the giving of their time in volunteer service.

Since 1985, the Gills have given more than \$25 million in gifts and endowments in support of education to 14 different colleges and universities and several high schools.

"All of us have benefitted, therefore all of us have a privilege and an obligation to give back to the system that helped us," Jack said.

The four Gill children are now members of the Gill Foundation board of directors and determine about half of the annual giving (presently about \$700,000 per year). Jack's goal is to increase the Foundation's assets to \$20 million in the near term to enable gifts totaling \$1 million annually.

"You can do lots of things with a million a year," Jack said.

The largest gifts made by the Gills have been direct gifts. A \$5 million endowment helped create the Gill Center of Instrumentation and Measurement Science at Indiana University, including five endowed chairs, five graduate fellowships and five student scholarships. Another \$5 million endowment created the Linda and Jack Gill Heart Institute at the University of Kentucky, with three endowed chairs, 10 endowed professorships, endowed research and a \$23 million building.

"We focus where the need is great and where the impact is great," Jack said. "That's where we give our major gifts and spend our time." Jack also volunteers on the board of Indiana University Foundation, M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors, and Horatio Alger Association Board of Directors, a national association which honored him in 1999.

The Gills' assistance spans from major public institutions to a number of high schools in California, Texas and Kentucky that figured in their education. There, they have established scholarships named for great teachers and other incentives for teaching excellence.



"I have immense respect for Lamar and for the great education it provided me," Jack said. His support of Lamar began in the 1980s when he met President Robert Kemble and learned of many changes since he graduated in 1958.

"A few years later, Chancellor George McLaughlin and President Bill Franklin



### **Gifts to Lamar University**

**Jack M. Gill Chair in Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering**

**Elmer Clayton Gill Memorial Scholarship  
Samuel G. Gill Presidential Scholarship  
Jack M. Gill Presidential Scholarship**

**Science Faculty Development Grant  
Engineering Faculty Development Grant**

**Creation of the Gill Advanced Learning Center**

**Continuing support for the Texas Honors Leadership Program**

**Campus Beautification**

solicited me to make a gift to Lamar," Jack said. The result was the Gill Chair in Analytical Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, one of many ways Lamar University has benefitted from the renewed relationship. Jack has also served on the Lamar University Foundation as its president and was instrumental in its move to 501(c)3 status.

"It was unfortunate that Lamar lost its momentum in the '90s," Jack said. "But I feel effective leadership is now in place to rebuild Lamar to the excellence it once enjoyed. Jimmy Simmons is the freshest breath of air that has come along to Lamar in a long time."

Recently, Jack has begun working with Lamar's chemistry and engineering faculty to initiate an outreach program for recruiting in selected high schools, spreading the news about opportunities in science and engineering and the programs at Lamar. He intends to sweeten the deal with scholarship money aimed toward recruiting top students.

It all works together: A high-tech classroom to enhance the delivery of education, development dollars to attract and encourage energetic faculty and scholarships to help bring exceptional students to the classrooms of Lamar.

In the past two decades, America's Fortune 500 companies have shed 18 million jobs through mergers, downsizing and consolidating to remain globally competitive. Over the same period, America generated 35 million new jobs, approximately one third in government and two thirds of them in high-

tech and small business, more jobs than were lost by the Fortune 500. Today, three of the top four companies in market value are high-tech: Microsoft, Cisco and Intel.

"The world has gone technology, that's where the jobs are," Jack said. "Let's get serious about focusing on those areas. There are more jobs than good people to fill them in those sectors."

What is next for the man with four careers? If you think retirement, then you don't know Jack.

"I've enjoyed more business success, more financial success, than I've ever imagined possible. I'm 63 – feel younger than 40 – but comes a time when what you do with your time and other priorities become more important. So, I'm consciously taking a step closer to retirement.

"I don't know anything more fun than high-tech venture capital so I'll keep doing that half time," Jack said, "while teaching at Harvard to fill in the other half."

At Harvard, Jack will be on faculty of both the medical school and the business school. He will serve as senior director of the Center for Innovative and Minimally Invasive Therapy (CIMIT), a consortium seeking to advance the application of technology to a new generation of medical devices and techniques that will change the way medicine is practiced.

"I will be bringing together the great innovations that have taken place in the world to bear on important challenges in medicine," Jack said.

Despite the career shift, the couple will maintain their Houston home (and Texas residency) while living part-time in Boston. Frequent trips to France, England and Italy to visit clients and friends will be easier from the East Coast.

Jack Gill's ascent from small town life to a role as a leading venture capitalist in the new high-tech economy and Harvard professor hinges on one thing: education. It is his great enablement, passion and theme. The Gill family return policy ensures it will be an enablement in the lives of countless others to come.

## Jack Gill: Honors and Recognition & Non-Profit Board Participation

### Honors and Recognition

- Indiana University Bicentennial Medal (2020)
- Indiana University Bloomington, Wylie Innovation Medal Award (2020)
- Indiana University Bloomington, Herman B. Wells Visionary Award (2019)
- USASBE, John E. Hughes Award for Entrepreneurial Advocacy (2014)
  - Nominated by Betsy Gatewood (Wake Forest University/Indiana University)
- UC Davis “Robert A. Fox Executive in Residence” (2010)
- The National Academies, Presidents’ Circle Appointee (2002)
- DePauw University, Robert C. McDermond Medal for Excellence in Entrepreneurship (2002)
- Indiana University, Kelley School of Business, Velocity Entrepreneurship Award (2002)
- Indiana University Bloomington, Distinguished Alumnus Service Award (2002)
- Boston University, School of Management, Henry Morgan Entrepreneurship Award (2002)
- Indiana University Bloomington, Honorary Doctorate in Science (2001)
- Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences, Distinguished Alumnus Award (1999)
- Lamar University, Distinguished Alumnus Award (1989)
- Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans (1999)
- Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans – Elected to Board of Directors (2001)

### Non-Profit Board Participation

- Lamar University Foundation Board of Trustees (1988-95), President (1988-1991)
- Indiana University, School of Arts and Sciences, Advisory Board
- IU Kelley School of Business Advisory Board
- Houston Symphony Orchestra
- UK Gill Heart and Vascular Institute
- UT President’s Nanoscience Board
- UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Presidents’ Circle of the National Academies
- Project Hope Board
- Indiana University Trustee
- Texas Emerging Technology Fund (appointed by the Governor of Texas)
- Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, Chairman of Senior Advisory Board
- Harvard-MIT CIMIT Program, Senior Advisor
- Lamar University, Engineering Advisory Board
- Lamar University, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Center for Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship (CICE)

## FACTS ABOUT...

**“Roles of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers in High-tech Startups”  
Life Science Entrepreneurship (MGMT / BIOE 633)**

Over  
**2,000**  
students  
have taken  
633 in  
14 years  
at Rice

**1**  
Heckuva  
Course for  
Entrepreneurs

Over  
**80**  
Successful  
Entrepreneurs  
have told their  
startup stories  
in 633.

**3**  
Marriages  
of Students



**23**  
Super-Smart TA's  
off to the Races  
in Accelerated  
Entrepreneurial  
Careers

Over  
**2,000**  
venture  
members;  
venture was  
founded by 633  
students

30 MDs  
27 PhDs  
23 MBAs  
Mix of speakers  
that have spoken  
in 633.  
Great inspirations!

Over  
**5,000**  
students have taken  
this course at 4  
Institutions: Rice,  
Harvard, MIT, and  
Stanford.  
Most consider it...  
“Life Changing,  
Career Defining!”



**Jack M. Gill, PhD**  
Scientist, Venture  
Capitalist, Professor  
and Philanthropist

**633 Course Originator  
and Faculty Lead,  
Professor in the Practice  
of Entrepreneurship,  
Jones Graduate School  
of Business**

# MGMT / BIOE 633 TEACHING ASSISTANTS

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2007



**David Allison, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering (2008)

**Partner (Healthcare VC)**  
5AM Ventures  
San Francisco Bay Area  
[LinkedIn: /in/daviddallison](https://www.linkedin.com/in/daviddallison)

2008



**Nasos Dousis, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering (2010)

**Principal Scientist, Comp. Eng.**  
Moderna Therapeutics  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
[LinkedIn: /in/ndousis](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ndousis)

2009



**Chris Durst, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering (2011)

**VP, Product Development**  
Procyron  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: /in/chrisdurst](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chrisdurst)

2010



**Michael Cuchiara, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering (2011)

**Director, Scientific Affairs**  
NeuroTronik  
Durham, North Carolina  
[LinkedIn: /in/michaelcuchiara](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelcuchiara)

2011



**James Lu, MD, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
MD/PhD, Genomics & Neuro. (2014)

**Chief Scientific Officer & Co-Founder**  
Helix  
San Francisco, California  
[LinkedIn: in/james-lu-m-d-ph-d-8450334/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-lu-m-d-ph-d-8450334/)

2012



**Will Clifton, MD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
MD, Medicine (2012)

**President & Co-Founder**  
Enventure  
Houston, Texas  
enventure Co-founder  
[LinkedIn: /in/wclifton1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/wclifton1)

2012



**Sam Mason, MBA**  
Rice University  
MBA, Entrepreneurship (2011)

**Technical & Marketing Specialist**  
Giffin International  
and the Rice Alliance  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: /in/sammason2](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sammason2)

2013



**Matthew Pautz, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
PhD, Translational Biology  
and Molecular Med. (2014)

**Associate Director, Cell  
Therapy Biomarker Discovery**  
Ziopharm Oncology  
Houston, Texas  
enventure Co-founder  
[LinkedIn: /in/mattpautz](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mattpautz)

2013



**Joanna Nathan, MBA**  
Rice University  
MBE (2012), Bioengineering  
MBA (2019), Finance

**Manager, New Ventures**  
J&J Center for Device Innov.  
**Co-Founder**  
LilySpec  
Houston, Texas  
enventure Co-founder  
[LinkedIn: /in/joannanathan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joannanathan)

2014



**Amy Hurwitz, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
PhD, Translational Biology  
and Molecular Medicine (2015)

**Project Leader**  
Boston Consulting Group  
Los Angeles, California  
enventure Co-founder  
[LinkedIn: /in/amyhurwitz](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amyhurwitz)

2014



**Zachary Crannell, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering (2014)  
Texas Heart Inst. & St. Luke's

**Product Specialist,  
New Product Development**  
W. L. Gore & Associates  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
[LinkedIn: /in/zacharycrannell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zacharycrannell)

2015



**Triparna Ghosh, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
PhD, Translational Biology  
and Molecular Medicine (2017)

**Director, Client Engagement**  
saleSEER, Inc.  
Houston, Texas  
enventure Co-founder  
[LinkedIn: /in/triparnaghosh](https://www.linkedin.com/in/triparnaghosh)

2015



**Sam Paulsen, PhD**  
Rice University  
PhD, Bioengineering and  
Biomedical Engineering (2018)

**Product Engineer**  
Cytiva (fmr. GE Life Sciences)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
[LinkedIn: /in/samantha-paulsen](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samantha-paulsen)

2016



**Brittany Barreto, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
PhD, Genetics (2017)

**Co-Founder**  
Femtech Focus Podcast  
**Senior Venture Associate**  
Capital Factory  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: /in/brittanybarreto](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brittanybarreto)

2016



**Sarah Hein, PhD**  
Baylor College of Medicine  
PhD, Biotechnology (2017)

**Entrepreneur in Residence**  
TMC Innovation  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/srheinh](https://www.linkedin.com/in/srheinh)

2017



**Charanya Kaushik, MPH**  
UTHealth  
MPH, Epidemiology (2017)

**Data Scientist**  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
Washington, D.C.  
Fulbright Scholar (Colombia)  
[LinkedIn: /in/charanya7](https://www.linkedin.com/in/charanya7)

2017



**Sara Nizzero, MS**  
Rice University  
PhD, Applied Physics (2019)

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Houston Methodist Research Inst.  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/saranizzero](https://www.linkedin.com/in/saranizzero)

2018



**Norah Owiti, PhD**  
UTHealth  
PhD, Microbiology and  
Molecular Genetics (2018)

**Postdoctoral Associate**  
MIT, Engelward Lab.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
[LinkedIn: in/norah-owiti](https://www.linkedin.com/in/norah-owiti)

2018



**Adrian Trömel, MBA**  
Rice University  
MBA (2018)

**VP of Strategy**  
Hamilton Health Box  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/adriantroemel](https://www.linkedin.com/in/adriantroemel)

2019



**Christina Ulrich, PhD**  
University of Houston  
PhD, Developmental Biology &  
Embryology (2019)

**Postdoctoral Researcher**  
UH Natural Sciences & Math.  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: christina-ulrich-87669364](https://www.linkedin.com/in/christina-ulrich-87669364)

2019



**Amadeus Zhu (PhD)**  
Rice University  
PhD Candidate,  
Bioengineering (2020)

**Innovation Consulting Fellow**  
Enventure  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/zhuamadeus](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zhuamadeus)

2020



**Alem Abebe Belachew (PhD)**  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center  
PhD Candidate, Human and Molecular  
Genetics (2020)

**Doctoral Research Assistant,**  
Department of Epidemiology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/abelachew](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abelachew)

2020



**Marian Majid (PhD)**  
Rice University  
PhD Candidate, Bioengineering and  
Biomedical Engineering (2022)

**Project Manager, ENRICH**  
Enventure  
Houston, Texas  
[LinkedIn: in/marian-majid-16673389/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marian-majid-16673389/)

## **Testimonials from Jack Gill's Teaching Assistants in Life Science Entrepreneurship (MGMT/BIOE 633)**

*Jack could be doing anything with his free time, but he chooses every year to invest months and months of hard work into inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs. And for that I'm truly grateful.*

**Joanna Nathan, Manager, New Ventures @ J&J Center for Device Innovation, MBE Rice University**

*My experience with Jack was incredibly positive and he was one of the formative mentors in my early transition from academia to venture capital. Jack was generous with his time and offered great perspective on the venture industry and how to plan a career built on a scientific foundation but angled toward entrepreneurship. I'm very grateful to have been connected with Jack early in my career and continue to enjoy staying in touch.*

**David Allison, Partner SAM Ventures, PhD Bioengineering, Rice University**

*My first exposure to life science commercialization was through the famous Jack Gill's Life Science Entrepreneurship class when I was a Ph.D. candidate back in 2017. Not only did I learn about the business side of life sciences, but I was also inspired by the stories of entrepreneurs that came to talk every session. Fast forward 3 years, I now have my Ph.D. and currently working for a company that supports the commercialization of clinical data, technology, and oncology pathways. None of this would have happened without Jack's foresight and commitment to exposing trainees within the Texas Medical Center to maximizing their potential to solve problems and ultimately improve health outcomes - while earning a dollar in the process.*

*I am sure you will hear so many stories like mine where Jack's class was the catalyst for starting new businesses, commercializing ideas, or reaching greater heights than thought was possible. Jack has impacted the broader community by awakening the entrepreneurial spirit within every trainee that took the Life Science of Entrepreneurship course.*

**Alem Abebe Belachew (she/her), Director, Client Engagement salesSEER**

**PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

*Meeting Jack and getting the knowledge and access that I got through his class really was transformative to my career. The Rice Life Science Entrepreneurship Course has helped hundreds of postgraduate students coming through the research programs at Rice, Baylor, and other TMC institutions determine a non-academic path that can leverage their knowledge and skills.*

**Chris Durst, Vice President, Product Development Procyron, PhD, Bioengineering, Rice University**

*Imagining the thousands of students that have come through his classes, we can only imagine the value created, the companies founded, the inventions patented, the lives saved, the life sciences companies that have gone on to be founded by his students.*

**Adrian Trömel, Vice President, Hamilton Health Box, Rice MBA**

*I'm standing here now as an entrepreneur because I was inspired by the people that I heard in Jack's class, at Ignite, at the Rice Business Plan Competition. And now I am starting to stand in those footsteps and to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.*

**Emily Reiser, Medtech Entrepreneur | Senior Manager, TMC Innovation**

*It gave me both the vocabulary and the vision to see that this was a real career path where we can translate the technologies that we work on every day into the clinic.*

**Sarah Hein, Biotech Entrepreneur, Courier Therapeutics/TMC Entrepreneur-in-Residence**

*Jack has opened my eyes on a whole new way to look at my world - the scientific world. His mentorship and teachings have empowered me to devise my own path, at the bridge between academia and industry, leading transformative medical research.*

**Faculty Fellow, Houston Methodist Hospital, PhD in Applied Physics, Rice University**

## Feedback from Students in Jack Gill's Life Science Entrepreneurship Course (MGMT/BIOE 633)

### Role of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers in High-tech Startups

- "Best course I've ever taken."*
- "The must-take class to start your journey as an entrepreneur."*
- "Life changing course which transformed me."*
- "This course is life changing and helped me focus on the big picture as an entrepreneur."*
- "Over the top... every class. World class speakers. Far, far exceeded all expectations."*
- "Great class to understand the startup world and get inspired to be an entrepreneur."*
- "Best in class, first in class... this life science entrepreneurship course."*
- "I would walk through flood, fire and the apocalypse just to make sure I don't miss a class."*
- "The existence of this class and my taking it at this pivotal time in my life was so important!"*
- "Thank you for this amazing class. This is inspirational gold!"*
- "This course really helped me find my current place in my path and set up my future."*
- "The most eye-opening course I have ever taken."*
- "I love the class and will recommend it to others."*
- "Game changing.... Inspired me to join the entrepreneur world!"*
- "Inspiring, enabling crash course in entrepreneurship backed by real-world experience."*
- "Energy-packed class that gives us a view of the entrepreneurial world!"*
- "This class is a great place for networking."*
- "A very great course to learn how to be a successful entrepreneur."*
- "An eye-opener every graduate student needs."*
- "This course provides insight into really understanding if you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur."*
- "If you have any interest in startups, VC, or high tech, this course is a must."*
- "Learn from REAL entrepreneurs, successful ones!"*
- "A strong grounding for entrepreneurship and venture capital -- should be required!"*
- "Anyone interested in business and life science MUST take this course!"*
- "Showed me how I can be an entrepreneur!"*
- "Good class to provide nerds with a basic business background and show them what they don't know."*
- "Great insight in nitty gritty of funding a startup."*
- "Unlike any other class in medical or graduate school!"*
- "Seeing all these speakers, you can't help but want to be them."*
- "This course should be a must for every PhD student."*
- "Meet incredible people, learn how to make things happen, become inspired to change the world."*
- "One of the best courses that I took in graduate school."*
- "Great to connect with Houston life science ecosystem and understand the life science landscape."*
- "If you didn't want to be an entrepreneur before, you will after taking BIOE 633."*
- "Worthwhile, inspiring and life-changing perspectives about entrepreneurship."*
- "Best course I've taken as part of my MD training."*
- "A must for anyone in life sciences"*
- "Dr. Gill's class really pushes students to think big and chase their own aspirations."*
- "The most honest, truthful, reliable course I've ever had. I trust what Dr. Gill shared with us."*
- "Improved my lifetime earnings potential by 1000%."*
- "The best course I ever attended in my life."*
- "Awesome, informative...this course comes from another planet."*
- "By far the best course... outstanding, stimulating."*
- "One heck of a class."*
- "Awesome!"*
- "I wish I could take more classes like this!"*