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## Couple gives \$12M to UD business school

Largest donation to university will help with new building for college

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IRVING — In 1979, Satish Gupta took a chance after seeing a University of Dallas recruitment poster in India and applied to graduate school halfway around the world.

Though it was a big leap for him and his wife, Yasmin, the two found themselves at home at the small Catholic university in Irving.

Now they are showing their gratitude with a \$12 million gift to the school, the largest single donation in the university's history. The money will be used for a new academic building to house the College of Business, which will be renamed after the couple.

"We are indebted to the University of Dallas," Satish Gupta

said. "This was a new home for us. It was a tremendous moment in our life coming from India to a different country. But the university embraced us so well. My wife and I have wonderful memories attached to the university."

The Guptas' lives essentially revolved around the university when they arrived in Texas. He worked in a campus library while Yasmin was an assistant in the philosophy department. They both earned a master's in business from the school.

He was still a graduate student when he launched SB International Inc., an energy and steel distribution company that has grown from a small startup to a corporation with a global reach in the oil and gas industry. Gupta serves as president and CEO of the company, and his wife is executive vice president.

Gupta, who credits mentors from the University of Dallas for encouraging him along the way, said he saw a need to help the school revamp its campus image as the business program continues to grow.

The gift comes just as the university is expanding its business college with a doctoral program, which will enroll its first students in the fall.

"We're pretty excited about all the activities and opportunities that have been presented to us," said Robert Scherer, dean of the universi-



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ty's business program. "We're particularly thankful to the Guptas as we have a growing need to have

one building for the College of Business."

Classes and faculty are spread across the campus for the nearly 1,100 business students in the graduate and undergraduate programs.

Scherer said officials are working on a design that would make the building a "jewel" for the campus, offering not only classrooms and office spaces but community gathering areas.

He said the university is trying to raise an additional \$3 million to \$4 million to help complete the project. Plans are to break ground on the building in the spring and be ready by the fall 2015 semester.

"We really believe this is going to be transformative for the College of Business and the entire University of Dallas community as well," Scherer said.

The Guptas, who live in Dallas, are involved in various business and community efforts across North Texas, particularly in the Indian community. Satish Gupta started the area's popular Diwali event, which draws thousands to celebrate the Hindu festival of lights.