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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

CLASS OF '80

DECEMBER 2011

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THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS®

HOWDY, AGS!

Outgoing Class Agents Greetings:

Farewell from **Steve, Michael, Russ, and Sara**. We want all of you to know it was our privilege to represent you as Class Agents for the past five years. We had the opportunity to interact with you, The Association of Former Students staff and volunteer leadership, and current students at A&M. Thanks to your generosity, the Class of '80 enjoys the status of one of the most generous Classes on record! We hope you will continue that tradition as Phil, Bill, Carolyn, and Mark take the reins and lead us towards our 35 Year Reunion in 2015. Don't blink as it will be here before we know it. We look forward to seeing you at local A&M Club events, Aggie games, on campus with your Aggie students, or wherever our paths may cross. Gig 'em!

Greetings from your new Class Agents:

We, **Phil Gougler, Carolyn (Storm) Kettenacker, Bill Jentsch** and **Mark Rhea**, are honored to serve you as Co-Class Agents over the next five years. As this is the last paper letter, please correspond to us via email or regular email per our addresses at the end of this Newsletter. We are here to serve you, and the more correspondence we receive from you will enable us to serve you better.

There are three very important items in this Newsletter that we need your input on:

1. Feedback on the survey relating to The Association discontinuing sending paper Newsletters to the Class.
2. Class of '80 Memorial Scholarship – We are looking for names of additional Classmates that have passed in the line of duty to honor them. Also, we want the entire Class to realize their descendants of our Classmates are eligible for this scholarship, with the descendants of fallen Classmates having priority.
3. Class of '80 MSC Pillar Campaign. Whether it's serving on our newly organized committee or making a contribution to the Class commitment, we need your involvement to make this a success. Read the section on the Class of '80 MSC Pillar Campaign.

We look forward to a very enjoyable and productive five years! Gig 'em!

Your Co-Class Agents,

Bill Jentsch
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 Houston, TX 77227
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IMPORTANT NEWS [back to top](#)

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING COMMUNICATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS!

The Association has made the decision to cease mailing paper Newsletters to the Class of '80 and younger Classes to save on the mailing expenses. However, currently, The Association only has 40 percent of our Classmates' emails compared to over 90 percent of the physical mailing addresses. This will mean that more than 50 percent of our Class will not be receiving timely communication about Class News, University News and campus activities, along with Reunion planning when written by your Class Agents in a Class Newsletter.

The Association has agreed to send out a final paper Newsletter to each of you in order for us to receive your feedback regarding how to most effectively communicate with you. TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU EFFECTIVELY, WE NEED YOU TO DO AT LEAST ONE OF TWO THINGS:

1. PLEASE SHARE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. You can send your email address to one of your Class Agents or go to the following link to submit your email address. (<http://classof1980.aggienetwork.com> or AggieNetwork.com)
2. USE THE UPDATED CLASS OF '80 WEBSITE WHICH IS <http://classof1980.aggienetwork.com>. All updated Class of '80 news will be published on this website. KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE when you are not receiving any further paper Newsletters or haven't submitted your email address.

To provide us and The Association better information regarding your preferences, we ask you to complete the survey, located on our [Class of '80 website](#).

MSC PILLAR CAMPAIGN [back to top](#)



The MSC has been the focal point for student gatherings at Texas A&M for more than 60 years, with our Class close to the middle of those 60 years. With the MSC now receiving more than a facelift, we have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the effort. At our last Reunion, we unanimously voted to raise \$100,000 over a three-year period for



the Class of 1980 MSC Pillar. Our Class will be named on one of the pillars in the MSC building - a true honor in this remarkable building that carries so much meaning.

The Campaign Committee

We now need your help to fulfill our \$100,000 pledge within three years. We have formed a committee with

Brooks Herring (brooks.herring@gmail.com) and **Brenda Kapavik** (brenkap@aggienetwork.com) as co-chairmen. If you are willing to serve on the committee, please contact **Brooks** or **Brenda** directly, or contact one of our Class Agents. We already have a number of volunteers who are doing a remarkable job helping to raise the funds, but we could always use more help. We have raised over \$25,000 to date, and we are just now officially kicking off the campaign with this Newsletter.

Why This Is So Important

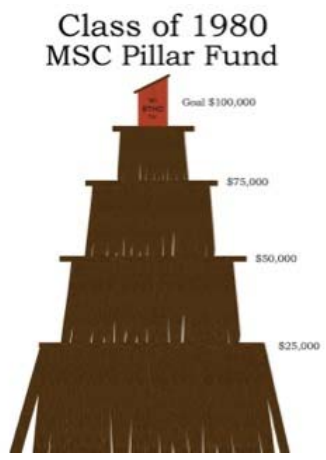
The MSC is more than just a central place for students to gather, it is also a tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. Dedicated on April 21, 1950, the anticipated re-opening of the MSC will take place on April 21, 2012. To learn more, visit ourmsc.tamu.edu.

Please consider how much the MSC was a part of your A&M student experience and help us make the new MSC building a reality for future Aggie generations.

What You Can Do

Most importantly, we need your generous donation. While \$100,000 seems like a lot of money, if we work together as a team we can quickly turn our goal into reality. We're calling our campaign "3 For The C" and asking you to pledge at least an \$80 contribution each year for three years as well as contacting three other Classmates and ask them to contribute towards the campaign. We can all do that, and many can do more!


You will find a link to the pledge card below, and we ask that you don't delay in making your pledge today. We certainly want to encourage anyone who would like to give a larger contribution. Also, consider year-end gifts.



It's Easy To Give:

- By check - use the pledge form with your check made out to the Texas A&M Foundation with "Class of '80 Gift Fund" in the memo line. Mail to: 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840.
- By credit card online - at giving.tamu.edu, click on the "Give Now" button at the top right to make a gift online. Please check the box Contribute to an account not listed above and then enter "Class of '80 Gift Fund" in the Special Instructions/Comment box.
- By electronic funds transfer - have an automatic withdrawal set up on your bank account. On the Foundation website (giving.tamu.edu), click on "How to Give" in the navigation strip and select "Current Gifts" to receive the details.

Donor Giving Levels	\$80 every...	Total Gift over 3 years
12th Man Hall	week	\$12,480
Medal of Honor Hall	two weeks	\$6,240
"Remove your hats, please"	month	\$2,880
"Keep off the grass"	quarter	\$960
Flag Room	year	\$240

 Texas A & M Foundation Class '80 Gift Fund	
PLEDGE INFORMATION	
My personal pledge:	\$ _____
My matching gift company will contribute:	\$ _____
Name of company:	_____
Total Commitment:	\$ _____
DONOR INFORMATION (Please Print)	
Name	Class Year
Address	
Email	
Phone	
PAYMENT INFORMATION	
Enclosed Contribution: \$	Please make checks payable to TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION . On the memo line, indicate - Acct #05-73172 Class '80 Gift Fund
Return to:	Texas A&M Foundation 401 George Bush Drive College Station, TX 77840-2811

30 YEAR REUNION HIGHLIGHTS [back to top](#)

To those of you who made it back to Aggieland for our 30 Year Reunion in late October, we hope you had as good a time as we did! Friday's activities started with gorgeous weather for the golfers, who enjoyed the special treat of playing the Traditions Course, home of the 2009 NCAA National Champion Fightin' Texas Aggie Golf Team.

In what began the home stretch of their run to being Co-Champions of the Big 12 South Division, the Aggies beat the hell outta Tech on a Chamber of Commerce day for college football. Whoop! In addition, the flyover included our very own Jeff Smiley as one of the pilots!

During the business meeting on Sunday morning, the Class overwhelmingly approved giving the University an Endowed Opportunity Award in memory of all fallen Classmates. See details under the Class of '80 Memorial Scholarship.

We also observed Silver Taps and Roll Call for the Absent for those members of our Class who had passed away since our 25 Year Reunion. As Class Agents, we get these notices as they are received by The Association staff. We want to thank **Brenda (Casimer) Blackwood** who writes a note of sympathy on behalf of the Class to the family of each Classmate. If you want to receive timely notice of the passing of our Classmates, you can sign up for an RSS feed from our [Class Page](#), our [Class of '80 website](#) or just visit the Class of 1980 page on a periodic basis.

Our very own Aggie astronaut, **Mike Fossum** is scheduled to command the International Space Station for a six month period in 2012. A break in his NASA training schedule for his trip to the International Space Station made it possible for **Mike** and his wife, **Melanie (London)**, to join us at our Reunion. **Mike** was a surprise guest speaker at the business meeting of the Reunion. It was great to hear about his adventures in space and the opportunity to see his dreams come true.

In an effort to keep the size of this Newsletter to a minimum, photos are posted on the [Class of '80 website](#). **Greg Brewer** has graciously posted a link to his online album of pictures from the Reunion weekend.



AGGIE | SILVERTAPS

Listed below are the Classmates we have lost since our Reunion in October 2010. Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers. **Click on a name for the full Silver Taps listing online. Visit our [Class Page](#) for updates on Silver Taps.**

- [Mr. Ralph H. Mizell, Jr.](#) passed away 09/27/2010
- [Dr. Glen S. Bollman](#) passed away 12/14/2010
- [Dr. Kay F. Reinartz](#) passed away 04/16/2011
- [Mr. John E. Gorrell](#) passed away 04/26/2011
- [Dr. Craig W. Clanton](#) passed away 05/03/2011
- [Mr. Steven J. McNiff, Sr.](#) passed away 05/29/2011
- [Mr. Stephen W. Stinson](#) passed away 05/31/2011
- [Ms. Theresa R. McCall](#) passed away 08/04/2011
- [Mr. Joe L. Field](#) passed away 10/01/2011
- [Mr. Nathan Abramsky](#) passed away 10/12/2011
- [Mr. Ricardo Trevino](#) passed away 11/02/2011



GIVING BACK TO AGGIELAND

The Association of Former Students provides support for many student organizations and Aggie traditions, such as Class Councils, Muster and Fish Camp, and your gift ensures that we are able to help these programs grow each year.

CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

PRESIDENT'S ENDOWED SCHOLAR UPDATE [back to top](#)

During the business meeting, we had the privilege of hearing our past Class of '80 President's Endowed Scholar, Shanna Lynn Schrock '11, formerly of Slidell, LA. Shanna has continued the tradition of Class of '80 Scholars that have been excellent students and great Aggies. The daughter of Donna (Wilke) '79 and Kelly Schrock '83, her younger sister, Nicole '13 is also a President's Endowed Scholar. Shanna completed her degree in chemical engineering in May 2011, and accepted a job with Dow Chemical in Freeport. She thanked the Class for making her scholarship possible and her dream of attending A&M a reality.



Our current Class of '80 President's Endowed Scholarship recipient is Katie Dahlander '15.

Katie Dahlander '15 is a freshman business honors major from W.T. White High School in Dallas. She was very involved in high school, participating in activities ranging from cheerleading, golf, church, student council, and National Charity League. She has pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma at Texas A&M and is already involved in activities with Mays Business School. She would like to thank the Class of '80 for their generous donation and she promises to do us proud in her college career.

MEMORIAL ENDOWED OPPORTUNITY AWARD [back to top](#)



As committed in previous Reunions, the Class voted unanimously to convert the funds in our current Class of '80 Gift Fund at the Texas A&M Foundation to a Class of 1980 Memorial Endowed Opportunity Award. The intent is to honor those Classmates who have fallen in the line of duty.

We are seeking to identify all Classmates who have fallen in the line of duty. If you know of anyone, please contact one of your Class Agents so that we can recognize them. Currently we

are aware of two Classmates who have fallen in the line of duty, **Lt. Cdr. Kenneth McGuire** and **Maj. Bruce Netardus**.

Descendents of the fallen Classmates are first in line to receive the scholarship. In the event they don't apply, a descendent of any Class of '80 Classmate is then eligible to receive this award. Simply apply when applying for admissions in the financial aid section of the admissions application packet.

The Development Foundation recognized the Class of '80 at the Endowed Opportunity Award luncheon held in April 2010. Phil and his wife, Jody, were present to receive the plaque on behalf of the entire Class of '80. We are working to have the plaque displayed in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Our first recipient is Antonio Rojas '15.

"My name is Antonio Rojas, I'm a chemistry major from Houston, Texas, but most importantly, I am the loudest and proudest member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2015!!! AAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!! I attended high school at Eisenhower Senior High where I received my diploma on the Distinguished plan, finished 12th out of 658 in my graduating class, and was part of the International Baccalaureate Program.



As far as extra-curricular activities go, I was a member of the Technology Student Association, International Culture Club at Eisenhower, National History Day competitor, and a mentor to several of the underclassmen in the "Pre-IB Years Program". I was elected to the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and UIL Academic Team. I also held office in numerous clubs and activities, which included being a Senior Representative of the Principal's Student Advisory Committee, a Captain, and Section Leader, of the Varsity Band, President of the Treasure Forest Outreach Program, Team Captain on my Junior Varsity Football team, and head of my section in the Students Improving Math Skills Tutoring Project. Most importantly, though, I was a student in the International Baccalaureate Program, which is one of the most rigorous college preparatory programs offered at the high school level internationally.



These efforts did not go unnoticed and I received plenty of recognition through two regional and one state finish in History Fair, two second place finishes in the Science division at Academic UIL, my election into the National Honor Society, several Honor Roll and Merit Roll recognitions, and a superior rating at Marching Band UIL.

My hobbies include recreational sports, musical composition and performance, and video web-mastering and production. I also like long walks on the beach, piña colodas, and getting caught in the rain. (Just kidding) I love to help people, and make anyone I can smile. My career aspirations have always been tied up in a three-way race to become a physician, psychologist, or sports journalist. Fortunately, I do not have to make that decision for a few more years.

The biggest thing people do not know about me, because of my competitive nature, is that I am not afraid of failure. I learned early on in my life that if you go into everything expecting the best, you will often be disappointed. All you can ever do is bring a great attitude and mindset, and strive to give any, and every, task 100 percent of your efforts. Another thing often unknown about me is that I am not only the first person in my family to attend college, but I am also the first person in my family to even graduate high school. It seemed as though all my life I had the odds stacked against me. However, the tables have begun to swing in my favor thanks to the opportunity college, and all my supporters, has given me. With a higher education under my belt, I know I will be prepared for whatever the world has to throw at me.

I do not use my setbacks as excuses, I do not quit because things are difficult, and I definitely do not complain about getting the short end of the stick. In fact, I embrace the challenge, and if there's one thing I love, it's being able to prove to everyone, time and time again, that I am destined for success." –Antonio Rojas

2012 MINI REUNION [back to top](#)

April 14-15, 2012 - College Station

Put April 14-15, 2012 on your calendar! We will be having a Mini Reunion to encourage Classmates to reconnect and to focus on our Class of '80 MSC Pillar Campaign. Check out our [Class of '80 website](#) for the exciting events as they are announced for the weekend. The center of activity will be at the VFW Hall in Bryan and co-anchored by the Maroon and White Game. We're sure **Mark Schmidt** will be found cooking beans during the weekend. **Don Constantine** is searching for a two-fiddle band to play a lot of our old favorites.

Although detail planning is still underway, we have commitments for a BBQ/bean team from **James Wendlandt**, **Scott Hutchins** and will volunteer **Tom Gregory** to assist **Mark Schmidt** as bean taste tester.

CLASSMATE NEWS [back to top](#)

Jim and Patrice '83 **Kast** sent this update: "Howdy Classmates! Still in transition up here in Colorado. In addition to my search for a corporate C-level gig (CEO, president, or VP marketing in a very special case) I have been networking with a number of private equity groups who have offered to back me in an acquisition bid if I can find the right company I want to lead. If you know of any lower mid-market companies that are product-based and looking to sell, drop me a note (jim.kast@comcast.net). Don't really care where they are located, but going home to Texas would be great. On the family front, son Brandon '09, is doing fantastic as a financial analyst in the Energy Group at Wells Fargo in Dallas. Daughter, Marissa, is now a junior at Colorado State University and will follow Mom into the teaching profession. Daughter Anna is a freshman in high school and heavy into POMs, dance, social life and learning how to drive (I have virtually no hair left). Patrice continues to teach middle school math. Miss home and Aggieland, so I hope one of y'all will help me find a great gig to pursue down there. Thanks and Gig 'em." Email: jim.kast@comcast.net. Phone: (303) 905-3703.

Phil Miner has been selected to be on The Association of Former Students Board of Directors.

Rev. Paul Hughes sends this news from Cuero: "After earning my A&M degree in

industrial distribution, I subsequently returned to a Bible college, then earned a Master of Divinity (1986) from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, Missouri. I also did work toward a doctorate at Baylor University.

In 2007, I published the book *Christ in Us: The Exalted Christ and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit* (ISBN 978-0-6151-3840-4) and edited *A Practical Discourse Concerning Death* by William Sherlock (ISBN 978-1-4303-1731-9). I have been pastor of Cuero Assembly of God, Cuero, Texas, since 2008. The church website is cueroassembly.org. I maintain a Bible Q&A blog at biblequestion.wordpress.com and an opinion blog at ekballo.wordpress.com. I am also a songwriter and musician, and presently single." pastor@cueroassembly.org; www.facebook.com/godstrombone or (361) 275-2727.

Paula Sorrells-Beene wrote in with this update: "My husband, 9-year-old son, and I have moved from Glastonbury to Bristol, CT. Although it will never be home, we do love it here and enjoy exploring the northeast and experiencing the four seasons. In 2009, I began publishing a monthly magazine called *Fli Paper* -- Full Life Insights into your Mind, Body, and Spirit. The mission of *Fli Paper* is to encourage readers to adopt a healthy lifestyle that brings mind, body, and spirit into balance through Biblical principles. Distribution includes churches, bookstores, doctors' offices, and of course, family and friends. There is a subscription price for *Fli Paper* to cover printing and postage. However, I would be delighted to send complimentary copies to any Classmates or fellow Aggies to introduce them to the magazine. Advertising opportunities are available as well. My website is www.flipaper.com. " **Paula** can be reached at So Be It Enterprises, P. O. Box 4069, Bristol, CT 06011-4069. By phone: (860) 584-8593 or email: paula_bear57@yahoo.com



Cheri and Ernen '81 Haby had a big weekend during our Reunion, as their daughter and son-in-law, Amanda '08 and Jim Hickernell '08 joined them from San Jose, California. They all enjoyed seeing the Haby's son, Douglas '11, as part of the Bugle Rank of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band! The picture on the left is from Final Review last spring when Douglas received his boots and bugle. That's one proud Mama!

The Class of '80 is still represented in the leadership of the Women's Former Student Network as **Sandra Par  t** is currently serving as President for 2011. After receiving her bachelors in environmental design and her masters in architecture in '82, **Sandra** began her career with RTKL in Dallas and Baltimore. She joined Helmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, (HOK) as senior vice president and director of interior design in 1998. After rising to managing principal of the Dallas office, she now serves as principal in charge for a number of clients and now leads the HOK Global Accounts Practice in Account Delivery, tying together the 23 HOK offices with account projects around the world. **Sandra** is also a member Emeritus of the HOK Board of Directors. Outside the office, **Sandra** has served as a lecturer/teacher in higher education (UNT, UTA) and most recently co-taught a graduate-level architectural design studio at Texas Tech University. Originally appointed in 1999 by then-Governor George W. Bush to a six year term on the Texas Military Facilities Commission, which constructs, maintains and renovates facilities for the Texas National Guard, **Sandra** was reappointed in 2005 and named Chair of the Commission by Governor Rick Perry and continues to serve the Adjunct General of the Guard as Chair of the Real Property Advisory Committee. **Sandra's** many hours of community involvement for the State of Texas earned her the Yellow Rose Award for Community Service from the Governor's office. **Sandra** has served on the Professional Leadership Board for the College of Architecture and was named College of Architecture Outstanding Alumni in 2004--the first female architect to receive that honor.

Laurie and Kenneth Borski attended our Reunion in October and have made their pledge to the Class of 1980 MSC Pillar Fund. Their son, Brian '07, and daughter-in-law, Anja '07, graduated from TAMU-Galveston. **Laurie and Kenneth** make their home in College Station, where they can be reached at PO Box 12137, College Station, TX 77842. sctldy@msn.com

Tim Cowden came in from California to join us at the Reunion. **Tim** has also made his pledge to the MSC Pillar Fund. He can be reached at 9451 #B Lake Murray Blvd., San Diego, CA 92119. tim.cowden@colliers.com

Anne (Gibbs) Hamilton reported at the Reunion that she's re-entered the working world as a residential real estate agent for Martha Turner Properties in Houston. **Anne** makes her home at 5635 Shady River Dr., Houston, TX 77056. ahamfamily@comcast.net

As noted in the Reunion Recap section, **Mike and Melanie Fossum** were able to make it to the Reunion thanks to a last minute change in **Mike's** training schedule. They reside at 822 Rolling Run Ct., Houston, TX 77062. melfossum@comcast.net

Tim and **Linda Gaither** enjoyed seeing everyone at the Reunion. **Tim** has volunteered to help with fundraising efforts for the MSC Pillar Fund (Thanks, **Tim!**). **Tim** and **Linda** and their young son make their home at 35 Hope Farm Rd., Missouri City, TX 77459. imgaither@entouch.net

Darrel and **Cindy Westbrook** flew in from Virginia Beach to catch up with everyone at the Reunion. The **Westbrooks** can be found at 1025 Ranchero Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456. cawestbrook@cox.net

Craig Roper joined all of us at the Reunion. He gets his mail at 11534 Sagepark Lane, Houston, TX 77089. croper@eprod.com

Mike Pack made it in from Spearman for the Reunion. He and his family make their home at 18 Golden Circle Dr., Spearman, TX 79081. gig_em@valornet.com

Kurt Abraham promised to send more news later, but he let us know his current address is 3720 W. Alabama #9105, Houston, TX 77027. kurta@texasalliance.org

Chris Wingert has signed up to support our MSC Pillar Fund goal. He also reports daughter, **Crystal**, graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelors in kinesiology from A&M in December 2008. She married **Michael Hutchison** in April 2010. **Michael** received his PhD in sports management in August 2010. He is now a professor at Coastal Carolina University, and they reside in Myrtle Beach, SC. It's always good when your kids move somewhere fun to visit, isn't it?! **Chris** lives at 8806 Coronado, Big Spring, TX 79720. cwingert80@hotmail.com

Don Constantine and wife, **Cynthia**, made the trek from Washington State to be at the Reunion and have signed on as supporters of the MSC Pillar Fund. **Don** works as a construction project manager for a large civil construction contractor, Apollo, Inc. According to **Don**, "Cynthia spends her time organizing parties and formal afternoon teas." Part of that doesn't ring true! They are the proud grandparents of **Jake** (9), **Brianna** (7) and **Aeris** (3). They reside at 10500 W. Leslie Rd A-102, Kennewick, WA 99338. dconstantine@apollofederal.com



Valorie (Howell) and **Jeff Elkin** of Houston have recently endowed three scholarships totaling \$75,000 at A&M. The scholarships, to be funded through multi-year pledges to the Texas A&M Foundation, will be awarded to junior or senior level students in computer science and engineering, economics and petroleum engineering. [Click here](#) to read the full press release from the Texas A&M Foundation on the Elkins.

The Dru R. '80 and M. Scott Cone '82 Scholarship was awarded for the first time this fall to a high-achieving petroleum engineering student in the Nelson Scholars Program. Funded by a \$60,000 endowment at the Texas A&M Foundation, the scholarship award is merit-based, and recipients must maintain a 3.0 grade-point average. "The Texas A&M petroleum engineering degree I received prepared me well for a future in the energy business, and I want to help others have the same opportunity," said **Scott Cone**, President of Tri-C Resources. **Scott** started his career with Texas Oil & Gas immediately after graduation. He advanced from drilling, production engineer to district drilling superintendent. He co-founded Tri-C Resources in 1985 with his father and fellow A&M petroleum engineer **Michael M. "Mike" Cone '60** and University of Texas geologist **John U. Clinch**. Initially formed to explore and develop opportunities on the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast, the company has drilled over 1,000 domestic and foreign wells.



"We appreciate this important gift from the Cones. Their support of the Nelson Scholars Program will help us attract and retain the bright young students who will become the engineering leaders needed by our growing high-tech oil and gas industry," said **Stephen A. Holditch**, department head and holder of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Chair.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release about the Cone's scholarship.



As a Finance major, **Scott Terry** saw up close the effect of the generosity of the Aggie family: his roommate received a President's Endowed Scholarship. **Terry** thought to himself, maybe someday I could do that for a student.

Now, more than 30 years later, **Scott** hasn't forgotten that desire. He has committed to a planned gift of \$100,000, which will be used to endow a President's Endowed Scholarship at Mays.

A senior vice president for Merrill Lynch in Tyler, **Scott** works in financial planning and wealth management. He says he frequently counsels his clients to add philanthropic activity to their estate planning. "I decided it was time to eat some of my own cooking," he says.

Joking aside, **Scott** says that as a former student and as an Aggie parent, he understands his obligation to give back to the school. "If we fail to reinvest in the institutions that have benefitted us, then we have failed those that enabled our success," he says. **Scott** hopes that his gift will enable future generations of Aggies to find success at Mays.

Two of **Scott's** four children have graduated from A&M, one with a degree in business and the other with a business minor. "The business school is a special place for me," says **Scott**.

Scott and his wife, Terry, reside in Tyler. In addition to their support of A&M, they also volunteer their time and resources with the East Texas Communities Foundation, Bethesda Health Clinic, the Tyler Catholic School System, Salvation Army, and United Way.

Scott earned his CPA license and joined (what is now) Bank of America after graduation. He spent 17 years in the Dallas, Midland, and Tyler offices, working in Commercial Lending. He has been with Merrill Lynch for 13 years.

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS [back to top](#)

- TAMU President Dr. Loftin is only the fifth A&M President that is also a graduate of A&M.
- A&M's fall 2011 enrollment was 49,129 at the main campus (51,500 if you take into account all campuses), making us the largest university in Texas. That also means that our freshman Class was a whopping 8,400. The 8,400 were chosen from over 30,000 applicants.
- While a full 25 percent of the freshman Class came from families where there was no history of a college education, Dr. Loftin said that A&M must continue to diversify to better reflect the current makeup of Texas' population. The current student population is 4 percent African American and 14 percent Hispanic.
- A&M is making progress in increasing the size of the Corps of Cadets. For the first time in 10 years, we have over 2,000 men and women in the Corps.
- Dr. Loftin commented that one of the most successful avenues for students to gain enrollment to A&M if they are not one of the initial 8,400 that are chosen is to join via the Blinn Team. There are 800 students who are admitted to both A&M and Blinn and are fully integrated into A&M because they can live on campus and take courses at both schools. The success is reflected in their GPA being higher than those who come directly into A&M as freshman and take classes only on A&M's main campus.
- A&M spends \$63 million in research. When you look at how that ranks outside of medical research schools, we are 3rd behind MIT and Cal Berkley.
- You may have read the Wall Street Journal article that stated A&M is the number two school in the nation for the number of recruiting visits by corporations, following only Penn State. [Click here](#) to read the full story.
- TAMU's new Commandant of the Corps of Cadets is Joe E. Rameriz, Jr. '79. Brigadier General Ramirez is A&M's 39th Commandant. For his bio, [click here](#).
His three objectives are:
 - Raising the academic standing of the Corps
 - Recruiting and retention
 - Increasing diversity
- Texas A&M had 17 Aggies in the Beijing Olympics and could have as many as 27 in the upcoming 2012 London Olympics.
- The fundraising effort for Olson Field has reached the goal of \$24 million. Construction started in February 2011, and the field should be ready for play in 2012. Blue Bell Creameries out of Brenham pledged the final \$7 million. The official name of the facility will be C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park.
- Kyle Field and its outdoor track are next in line for renovation. Design work has been ongoing for the past two years.
- A&M hosted the 2011 NCAA Indoor National Championship meet on March 11-12 and the 2011 NCAA Women's Golf Championship on May 18-21.

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