



The Association of Former Students, located at the CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER, celebrates its 125th Anniversary throughout 2004.

HOWDY!

We have several things to share with you this newsletter. The first and most important is planning for our rapidly upcoming 25-Year Class Reunion. *Can you believe it? We hate to break it to you, but we are becoming "old Ags!"* But we still know how to have fun, and we want to be sure that we have an exciting weekend planned that you won't want to miss. So look inside for the survey and share your ideas about what you want the Class of '80 Reunion to include. The more people involved in the Reunion, the more fun it will be for everyone.

2. Request for an update on Classmates serving in the U.S. Armed Forces
3. Class Gift/President's Endowed Scholarship challenge
4. Dr. Gates speech on his definition of "Legacy"
5. New about you—the Class of '80!

Help us fill the next newsletter with news about you and yours either by sending the enclosed form to one of us, sending us an email, or posting your news on the Class of '80 page on the web at www.AggieNetwork.com. Once you've posted your update,

for postings and move them to the public section of the site where other Aggies can see your news and keep in touch with you. So if you haven't tried

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WAYNE R. BURLESON passed away on September 23, 2001.

KELLY S. HOOPER passed away on March 25, 2003.

STEPHEN P. MCDONALD passed away on June 6, 2003

25-YEAR CLASS REUNION - 2005

Well, believe it or not, Reunion-planning time is upon us. IT IS ALMOST 25 YEARS SINCE WE GRADUATED. We need your input and assistance to make our 25-year Reunion as memorable as possible. Please send the enclosed form to one of the Class Agents listed below as soon as possible.

POTENTIAL CLASS AGENTS: For those of you who have an interest in becoming a Class Agent, this is a great time to get involved. **SARA'S** looking for new running mates, as **BILL** and **PATTY** are retiring after the 2005 Reunion. If you are interested in running, you can get involved in the Reunion planning, get together with Sara or two other running mates, and/or contact us for more information as to the level of commitment required to support our great Class!

COORDINATORS FOR INTEREST GROUPS or OUTFITS: We are encouraging interested individuals who are part of an outfit or special interest groups (OPAS, Student Government, Pre-Med Society, etc.) to contact us to coordinate activities for your group.

C L A S S M A T E S I N T H E N E W S

The ranks of the Academy of Distinguished Former Students in Texas A&M University's College of Science grew by five on March 25th at the annual spring banquet at the Pebble Creek Country Club. The 2004 Class of inductees includes Guy L. Clifton, a 1971 graduate from Houston, Thomas J. Hairston, a 1971 graduate from Nacogdoches, **BARBARA C. MARTINEZ**, a 1980 graduate from Los Alamos, New Mexico, Lee H. Smith, a 1957 graduate from Dallas and

External Advisory and Development Council to "recognize graduates of the College of Science at Texas A&M University who have brought honor to their profession through outstanding leadership in Mathematics, the Sciences and Medicine." Barbara was recognized for her leadership in the division of nuclear materials technology at the Los Alamos National Laboratories where her significant contributions to basic and applied research on the actinide elements and

1. Do you prefer a spring or fall Reunion? Spring Fall
2. Would you attend a fall Reunion in College Station on a non-game or away game?
3. Would you attend a Class Reunion outside of College Station (e.g., Houston, Da)
 - Yes No If yes, where would you prefer to have it? _____
4. Would you be interested in having an activity during the weekend centered around an outfit, sorority/fraternity, dorm, college, MSC group, etc.) in which you were involved?
 - Yes No If yes, which group(s) and what type of activity? _____
5. a. What cost range is your preferred limit for the cost per person of the weekend?
 - < \$75 \$75 to \$100 \$101 to \$200 \$201 to \$300
 b. How many people from your family are likely to attend? (Circle Answer Below)
 - Just me.* *Me and a spouse/date.* *Me + Spouse + _____ kid*
 c. What is your cost of getting to College Station? (Circle Answer Below)
 - A tank of gas* *Air tickets + rent car (\$250 or less)* *Air ticket*
6. What is the biggest reason you wouldn't attend the Reunion? _____

7. What is the biggest reason you WOULD attend the Reunion? _____

8. Would you be willing to volunteer to help with the planning _____ or execution? If yes, how would you like to be involved (i.e., what would you like to do to help)? _____

9. Do you have any ideas you wish to share to make this a very memorable Reunion? _____

10. Comments: _____

11. Name _____
12. Contact Info (Phone and/or email address): _____

PLEASE EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Bill Jentsch '80
P.O. Box 27571
Houston, TX 77227
Aggie80@swbell.net

Patty Rabel '80
13507 Olden Ct.
Cypress, TX 77249
prabel@shelteringarms.org

Spiritual Genome,” will be released early next year. Gig ‘em, Aggies. Their website, www.BibleXPark.org should now be online. jfuqua77@yahoo.com

GERALD “JERRY” GUMP also posted a note recently at www.AggieNetwork.com. “I have been recently married to Kendra Ann Duvall (now Gump) formerly of Kentucky. We are living in Plano with her two children Peter (15) and Carolyn (12). Kendra is a U.S. Navy veteran and currently works as an RN at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas in the cardiothoracic unit. Earlier this year I took the position of vice president, engineering, at Gas Technology Corp. in Irving. Gas Technology is in the natural gas treating and processing business. www.gastech.net. My son, Tyler, is now a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma majoring in history and wants to be a coach/history teacher. My daughter played varsity basketball at Plano Senior High last year as a sophomore and her team made it to the Class 5A Regional Finals in Waco. She had been playing junior varsity volleyball until badly spraining her ankle this past fall.” Jerry is looking for **BOB COCHRAN** and wants him to send an email. Jerry and Kendra are headed to Myrtle Beach in May 2004 for a late honeymoon. 3209 Oak Vista Dr. in Plano, TX 75074. jerryg1995_1999@yahoo.com

BOB HARDIN and his wife, Linda, make their home in Rockford, IL with their two teenaged sons, Lewis and Wes. While at A&M, Bob was a member of the Corps of Cadets (Killer K-2) and MSC Town Hall.

his band, “Assembly Required.” In addition to his band, Wes is an Eagle Scout, vice president of his freshman class, and played on the freshman and junior varsity football teams. Bob keeps the cards and letters coming and going as a letter carrier for the US Postal Service. 2414 Evanston Dr., Rockford, IL 61108. 815-229-6641. rhardin280@yahoo.com

DANIEL “JIMMY” HENSEL moved to Huntsville, TX and is working as a mechanical engineer at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He and his wife, Tammy, are glad to be back in Texas after nearly 13 years in Arkansas. Their older son, Danny, is a sophomore in the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band. Their other son, Mickey, is a senior at Huntsville High School. Jimmy says it’s great to be only an hour away from Aggieland! He’s hoping to cross paths again with some of his old Classmates. jimmy.hensel@aggienetwork.com

KENNETH JONES was promoted to Colonel in the Army Reserve on September 15, 2003. kjones1@hallmark.com

TONY LAGALANTE and his wife, Trisha, have relocated to Houston after 3 ½ years in St. Louis, MO. Tony was involved in a start-up company, but is now looking for a management position in Houston. 5846 Farwell Dr., Houston, TX 77035. 713-729-0063. tonylagalante@yahoo.com

DAVID and Wendy LEE live off base in O’Fallon, IL. They have

pin on April 1, 2004. He is currently working in the headquarters of U.S. Transportation Command at Scott AFB as a joint mobility operations chief. He expects to leave this summer for a follow-on assignment (to be determined). David tells us that 20+ years of Air Force life have been good, but the last 5-6 years have been busy. He wants to do a better job of staying in touch with any of his BQ ‘80 buds and would welcome any/all emails. wendave88@msn.com

DWAYNE and Sonia NICKLIN have relocated to Willis, TX. You can visit their web page at www.thetexasphoneguy.com. 7003 Pleasure Lake, Willis, TX 77318. 936-890-0278. dnicklin@shawus.com or blessedhopecommunications@shawus.com

SEAN PETTY was promoted in December 2003 to chief of staff of USA Cycling, which is the national governing body recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee for the sport of cycling. Sean was formerly V.P. of marketing for USA Cycling, where he has worked since 1994 in various capacities including team leader for the U.S. Olympic Cycling Team at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. Sean works at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and lives in Monument, CO. He is married to Gayle Bodin and has four children; Erin (19), Kristen (16) and twins, Morgan and Travis (17 months old). seanpro@aol.com

TONI (CORBELL) RISBOSKIN chose to leave industry after 22

ble, Avery Dennison, & Paxar Corp) and teach engineering & technology in a local high school. The curriculum she teaches is called ‘Project Lead the Way,’ which was developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. It provides pre-engineering courses as electives for those high school students interested in technical careers. The intent of this nationwide program is to improve the success (graduation) of students in technical degree programs such as engineering, where today ~ 50% which start do not complete, resulting in a stronger technical workforce available for our future. For more information on this excellent program, go to www.pltw.org. TRisboskin@aol.com

DAVID and Jennifer RUSSELL are just busy with life. David works as an A320 Captain for United Airlines. Coaching his son’s baseball and football has been a thrill. Just to fill his time, he is serving on the executive boards of three organizations. To allow for more fun time, he just retired from the Air Force Reserves in January, 2004. To quote David, “That will give me about 23 ½ years of service to this great nation. I can only thank God & TAMU for the opportunity to have served this outstanding country!” 1718 Heirloom Ct. Modesto, CA 95357. 209-551-8077. dprussell1@aol.com

MIKE and Denise (Bryant ’79) SNOW along with their kids, Nathan (19) and Merideth (16), relocated this past July from Omaha, NE to St. Louis, MO. They had lived in Omaha for the past four years. Mike

into some of his professors and colleagues from the agricultural engineering department at TAMU. He continues to raise his nine-year-old son as a single dad. htd@emcali.net

FRANK THOMAS has recently returned from the Olympic Test Event for archery in Athens, Greece where his team finished in fifth place. The test event allows the event organizers to hold a tournament exactly like it will be done in the Olympics to work the bugs out beforehand. It also allows the competitors to experience the conditions and venues that they will experience during the Olympics. Frank is associate department head and chair for the physical education activity program with the department of health and kinesiology at A&M. 979-845-7430. f-thomas@hkn.tamu.edu

Baby Central
 mer Student Program

are the proud parents of a baby girl, Anna Caitlyn. Michael is a forester at Forester Management. Anna is welcomed home by brothers, George (6) and Michael (3), and an aunt, Kathy McNamara Bufler '81. 1007 Hillcrest Drive, Conroe, TX 77301. 936-756-9448. mike_mcna@juno.com

MICKY and Sherry **MCCREA** welcomed home daughter Trace Robinson. *Congratulations!* mickymcc@uconn.net

ANTHONY "A.J." WIDACKI left Epsilon Engineering after 11 years. A.J. joined URS Corporation in their Houston office as transportation engineering manager. A.J.'s wife, Sherry, a Sam Houston graduate, is in her 23rd year with Shell Oil Company. aj_widacki@urscorp.com

As we close, we ask you to keep our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers. We also ask you to step up and get involved with the Reunion whether it is simply providing guidance for us or taking on an active role. We challenge you to invest in the spirit and pass it on by contributing to the Class gift for a second PES. Have a great spring and summer and we look forward to hearing from you SOON!

GIG 'EM!

**E. KING GILL
 STATUE
 (1ST CLASS GIFT) STATUS**

For those of you that have not been back on campus in the past few years, the E. King Gill statue has taken a new position north of Kyle Field. The statue, which was our initial Class gift, has been

prominently positioned on the North entrance of Kyle Field with the Zone



you. Below is his speech including his definition of legacy.

President Robert M. Gates
 Remarks to The Association of Former Students Winter Leadership Conference
 February 28, 2004

I have chosen to conclude a lifetime of public service at Texas A&M because of its values and character, because of its proud patriotism, and because of its extraordinary history of service to the nation. My mission here is to elevate A&M's academic and athletic excellence and its national prominence across the board. But I came here because, and only because, of A&M's culture and spirit and traditions. And I will never serve in this role anywhere else. (with all the recent publicity, I guess I've made that a self-fulfilling prophesy)

In my speeches on campus and around the state and nation, I refer to A&M as a unique American institution. It is such not because we are a world class research and teaching university - which, of course, we are. A&M is unique because of its spirit, its traditions and its culture. As some of you have heard me say before, were we to become a top ten university and lose that spirit, those traditions, our culture, we would be nothing more than another giant education factory. A big brain with no heart. Hell, we might as well be in Austin. I came here because of the heart. Not the brain.

Our academic program is the brain of Texas A&M. Our athletic program is its muscle. The corps is the university's heart. Over a period of years, all three have drifted, weakened. All must be made healthy and vibrant again.

From 1992-2002, our faculty shrank by 115 positions, our national academic rankings have declined steadily, and the quality of education

in 1996, the university of Nebraska has won 34 national and conference championships. Over the same period, Texas A&M - 40% larger than Nebraska - has won just seven.

Over the last 35 years, the corps has dwindled in size, not once filling the quad capacity of 2,600 since 1970. Grades, leadership on campus, fish retention, and more suffered.

Well, the days of drift at Texas A&M are over!

The changes we are making and the measures we are taking are not to chase rankings or recognition or to be like anyone else, but to build a culture of excellence in all we do -- teaching, research and service -- and to accomplish all with integrity. If we build a culture of excellence and integrity in carrying out our mission, then recognition, rankings, and the fulfillment of vision 2020 goals will follow of their own accord.

Eighteen months ago, I announced four priorities that would be the focus of our efforts for the next several years in building a culture of excellence.

First, to elevate the faculty. Most significantly, we have now adopted a plan that will add 447 new positions to the A&M faculty over the next five years. We have achieved the planned adding of 44 new faculty last September and we are adding 101 more this year. In just over a year, we will have made up the loss of faculty over the last decade, and more.

It is hard to exaggerate the implications for decades to come of this investment in new faculty for Texas

year and up 25% over last 5 years. We can and must do even better.

At the undergraduate level, increasing the number of minority students who apply to A&M is important, but what is critical is persuading a higher percentage of the minority students who apply, meet our standards and are admitted, actually to enroll here. We are focusing this year especially on this challenge. As our board of regents made quite clear last December, it is unacceptable that the number of freshman African American and Hispanic students at A&M actually has declined steadily for the past seven years.

Diversity at A&M is not about quotas or lowering standards. It is about the opportunity to learn from people of different economic, geographic, cultural and other backgrounds. It is about changing the perception among too many minority families that their children are not wanted here. A&M was established to serve all Texans. We want all who meet our academic standards to feel -- and to be -- welcome here. This is not only the right thing to do; it is completely consistent with our land-grant heritage and with our traditions. It is completely in keeping with the "aggie miracle" -- first-generation college students coming here and graduating with the skills and character to make successful lives. Taking this challenge seriously and meeting it successfully is, today, as important for Texas A&M's future strength and success as was admitting women in the 1960s.

The fourth priority is space. We don't have enough of it and too much of what we have is dilapidated and antiquated. This is especially true of our laboratories. We have been helped by the opening of the new Cox addition to the Wehner building and by the completion of the chemical engineering

new buildings essentially has been exhausted through 2013 as a result of the explosion of building during the 1970s and 1980s. We must develop new methods of funding classroom and laboratory buildings. We are in discussions with the Texas A&M foundation about using private giving as a source of funds for academic buildings. This

has not been the practice here in the past, but our needs are dire and will become only more so as we add new faculty.

In addition to the initiatives I have described in connection with our four top priorities, the past year has seen a number of other changes and successes that will play a major part in our future. The opening of our branch campus in Qatar in the Persian Gulf last September is an extraordinary development full of potential for Texas A&M and our global reach, but also for the middle east as a whole. Through our four engineering programs and a leadership role in Qatar's education city we have the opportunity to make a historic difference.

Last fall, a contract establishing the new ocean drilling research program was signed with the national science foundation. For 20 years, this has been A&M's largest research endeavor and, continuing our long partnership with Columbia University, we will lead the new program as well. A program that year by year is changing our understanding of the history of the planet.

The bottom line: these two contracts alone - Qatar and the new ocean drilling program - amount to over a billion dollars.

I would like to mention several other new initiatives. First, the creation of an honor system and honor council. The result of a combined faculty-student-administration task force, the honor system and council represent an

among American universities in striving to inculcate in our faculty, students and staff the importance of integrity in all we do - in academics, in athletics, and in our daily lives.

Another new initiative has been the creation of the presidential board of visitors for the corps of cadets. The first direct link between the president of the university and the corps, this board is intended to help us strengthen and grow the corps. Comprised of some three dozen men (all of whom served in the corps) and several women, the board will provide advice on recruitment, retention, and program issues relating to the corps. The chairman is Bartell Zachry, and the board includes three of the five living aggie four star generals as well as some of our nation's most decorated veterans. During a period of only four months last year, the members of the board contributed nearly \$250,000 for corps recruitment and retention initiatives.

In an effort to make the university more efficient administratively, to bring best practices from the business world and to run the university in a more business-like manner, I have appointed a new Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Sue Redman, who spent 19 years at Price Waterhouse, and most recently was a senior officer at Advance PCS, a \$14 billion pharmaceutical distribution company in Dallas. Sue also is class of '80, with a BBA.

Also to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness, we have just undertaken the most far-reaching administrative re-structuring at A&M in decades. After evaluating some 93 different organizations, we have made a number of changes to rationalize our structure, placing a number

of activities -- such as Reed arena and the MSC hotel -- on a more busi-

we have created a new award, presented to five advisors each year, to recognize these men and women. Each carries an after-tax stipend of \$2500. I felt the students should have the pre-dominant voice in these selections and so the award committee of five has three students on it.

Anticipating the possibility of future tuition increases, I have created a tuition policy advisory committee. Of the 15 members, seven are students, another is the President of the Federation of Aggie Mothers, and another is the President of The Association of Former Students. The remaining six are mainly faculty, with a couple of administrators. In short, nine of the 15 members are students, a former student, and an aggie mom.

It has also been my pleasure to work with The Association of Former Students and Porter Garner to elevate the importance of the distinguished former student award. It has been great fun to travel around the state and surprise former students with this important recognition. At the same time, I keep my perspective: the recipients are a lot more touched by a member of the Ross volunteers being there to read the citation and by the presence of reveille and her e-2 handler than by the presence of the president of the university.

All in all, as you can see, there is a great deal going on at Texas A&M. There is change afoot in every corner of the university, including athletics.

We have a new Athletic Director, new physical and financial resources for athletics, and new performance expectations in our athletic program. I have told Bill Byrne that I expect over the next few years to see every A&M team in every sport nationally ranked and consistently competitive for conference championships

clear meant that every university would need to consider whether to change its admissions policies and practices.

So, what were A&M's admissions rules as of this last fall? Of a Freshman class of 6,500, half were admitted under the top 10% law. Another 1/4 of the class was automatically admitted because they achieved a 1300 SAT and were in the top half of their high school senior class. So, 3/4s of our freshman class was admitted automatically -- no judgement or evaluation of personal attributes -- just numbers.

Only a fourth of the class was subject to individual review -- to an evaluation of what they were all about as human beings, as potential aggies. Our review process involved 100 points, 40 maximum for academics -- grades, SATs, and so forth. The remaining 60 points were based on educational level of your parents, extracurricular participation, leadership, community service, talents/awards/achievements, work, academic association with A&M, and extenuating circumstances. You could receive the most points for leadership and talents/awards and achievements -- up to 9 points in each category; having a job could get you 7 points; community service, the education level of your parents and "extenuating circumstances" each could get a maximum of 6 points; and academic association with A&M and legacy each could get you a maximum of 4 points. (academic association with A&M included some 20 separate possibilities, including the cadet world series, junior cadet achievement program, 4h round-up, campus tours, a day with the corps, "seniors experiencing aggie life", and so on).

How much did legacy matter? Last fall, legacy made a difference for some 300 students out of 10,000 admitted. (the Houston Chronicle likes to say

358 and denied admittance to 511. In 2003, of 878 students with legacy points, we admitted 353, and denied 525. In short, points for legacy, in reality, didn't count for much in admissions. And not one student got in based solely on legacy.

Now, the re-look at admissions last year, here as well as elsewhere, was caused by the Supreme Court's Michigan decision and, I might add, by our lousy record at A&M in attracting minority students. Currently, in a state that is roughly 12% African-American and 32% Hispanic, A&M is 2% African-American and 9% Hispanic. The state government, the Texas higher education coordinating board and, perhaps most importantly, our board of regents, all have said A&M must do better.

But how? Neither affirmative action (prior to the Hopwood case) nor the top 10% law has been successful in increasing minority enrollment at A&M. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, over the last seven years, A&M's minority enrollment has fairly consistently declined. Of course, we need more minority applicants, but the real problem is that so many of the minority students who meet our academic standards and are admitted, do not enroll here. So, the question last summer was how to increase minority enrollment at Texas A&M?

I appointed an admissions task force to address this question and how to react to the supreme court's Michigan decision. We had a deadline: any changes in admissions requirements had to be decided by early December, before a December 5 regents meeting, because of state law requiring any changes in admissions requirements to be on the books a year before becoming effective.

There was intense debate through

meetings, late in November, there was a lot of discussion of the recommendations of the admissions task force, the political ins and outs of the options, the likely views of former students, what the regents might or might not accept.

At a key moment in the debate, in the midst of the all political calculations, Vice Provost Bill Perry asked one of those rare, stunningly simplifying questions. He turned to me and said, "Bob, what is in your heart?" I hesitated, and then responded, "I'd like every student at A&M to be admitted on an individual basis, on merit -- on who they are, not what they are. That is the real aggie spirit. I want every student to be able to look at every other student and know that each was admitted on the same basis - individual achievement and individual qualities."

This, then, is the background to my announcement on December 3 that, when evaluating students who met our academic requirements, we would base individual admission decisions on individual merit, personal achievements and leadership potential.

What, then, are the admissions changes we recommended and the regents approved last December?

First, we want to know more about the students we admit. So, we will require - beginning next December under state law - that every student write essays in response to questions A and B on the Texas common application. Question A asks the student to describe "a significant setback, challenge or opportunity in your life and the impact it has had on you". Question B asks the student to describe "how you, as a student, are a good match with us as a learning community". How will your individual characteristics lead you to make a contribution to our campus?

The other change is to raise the

at least 600 on each of the math and verbal parts of the test and must be in the top 25% of their senior class. We project this will reduce the number of automatic academic admissions from about 1700 or so to around 800. What does that mean? It means that the number of students we admit based on individual evaluation or review will increase from about one fourth of the freshman class to about one third. And that offers new opportunity to kids of all kinds of backgrounds who may not have fantastic grades or SATs but who have been leaders, achievers, involved in community service, those with special talents and skills, those who have overcome real obstacles. In short, more opportunities for the kind of kids who become classic aggies.

Now, we knew even late last November that in an admissions process we were saying would henceforth be based only on individual merit, on the qualities of each student, there was a fundamental inconsistency as long as we continued to give points for legacy. Points that had nothing to do with individual merit and personal qualities.

It was then I made a mistake. I thought we had some time to work out that inconsistency, but in meetings with faculty, staff, students and legislators in Mid-December, it was clear that

the inconsistency was too glaring to be ignored or for action to be postponed. I thought a lot about the issue over the holidays in the northwest and, prodded by a number of senior leaders at A&M upon my return, and after consulting with the Board of Regents, I decided we must eliminate legacy if we were not going to consider race as a factor. As I told one newspaper reporter, there was no alternative. Either you have an admissions process based on merit or you don't. And we

...that I was a legacy. A legacy of my family's values, of my parents' lessons on the meaning of the character and integrity, a legacy of my grandfather's and my father's belief that in America everyone should make his or her own future. Of their belief that where you come from should be irrelevant to where you might go. It is a story of aspiration, of ambition, of hard work, of individual merit. It is, in truth, the aggie story. Where the only legacy, the only preference, that matters is the quality of each man or woman, a willingness to work hard, of determination and courage and persistence born of hope, of aspiration, and of character. Rich or poor, fourth generation aggie or first time college student, that is the legacy, the preference that makes Texas A&M unique. And, in America, I believe that is the only legacy, the only preference, worth fighting for.

It is said that a ship that is adrift makes no waves. Make no mistake

...about it. Texas A&M is making, and will make plenty of waves in the time ahead. Our course is set and we are just getting up a full head of steam.

During the presidential search process in 2002, I said that if A&M wanted the status quo, it had the wrong person. I said I would be an agent of change. Well, today, change is afoot in every corner of the university, from the Corps of Cadets to the faculty to the administration to athletics. All with the purpose of creating a culture of excellence and of keeping A&M's unique culture and spirit alive and vibrant.

President Harry Truman once said "every great achievement is the story of a flaming heart." Well, the hearts of aggies are aflame, and our great achievement will be a university that in all its parts is worthy of our heritage and our mission. A university with a culture -- a legacy -- of excellence and integrity, with traditions and a spirit others can only aspire to emulate.

Class of '80

President's Endowed Scholarship

INVEST IN THE SPIRIT

We hate to keep bringing this to the newsletter, but we are confident that you, our Class, will make a difference in this endeavor. We challenge each of you to give a minimum of \$50 towards our second Presidential Endowed Scholarship.

Supporting a second PES does several things.

- Your eligible child or relative could receive the PES. We voted at the Reunion that those who are eligible for the PES program.
- It allows exceptional students that couldn't otherwise attend A&M to be an Aggie.
- It enhances the possibility of increased numbers of National Merit Scholars and other awards.

We challenge each of you to step up to the plate and become involved in this effort by simply contributing to the scholarship fund.

WE NEED YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS EFFORT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND PASS IT ON! You can help through any one or a combination of the following:

- VOLUNTEER TO HELP **GARY GILLEN** COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF **KEITH BESSELL, MICHAEL CUTBIRTH, JERRY GUMP, MIKE PACO** AND OTHERS WHO HAVE STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE TO HELP AS AREA COORDINATORS.
- VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO CONTACT CLASSMATES VIA TELEPHONE. The Class telethons were a key component of our fundraising efforts for the past several years.
- SUBMIT IDEAS FOR HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL. We're looking for ideas, names of potential volunteers, and prizes for our draughts.
- CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY. A minimum contribution of \$50 would go a long way to achieving our goal.

We need people to support the cause. We have committed to having this complete support of the entire Class to achieve our goal of \$60,000.

If the PES funding level is achieved by our 25th Reunion, all donors will be eligible to receive a \$3,000 scholarship (valued at \$3,000 and a Segway generously donated by one of our classmates) with their name inscribed on the scholarship. Donors will be provided more details prior to the Reunion.

Contact any one of your Class Agents or GARY GILLEN at gary@gillenpestcontrol.com with this effort.

ASSOCIATION EXCEEDS ANNUAL FUND GOAL

...t!

...tions of more than 100,000 former students. The Association's 2003 Annual Fund raised over \$4 million! As a result of your support to Texas A&M, we have achieved more than ever before!

...or your support!





every donation to
The Association of Former Students:

- Provides support for student organizations, the Corps of Cadets, Aggie Band and many others.
- Makes scholarships and loans possible for students in need.
- Helps Aggie traditions, such as Muster and Fish Camp, to grow each year.
- Funds career centers for current and former students seeking employment.

You Can Donate Online at www.aggiesweb.com

With my eye

Available to members only

Class Year

Name

Address

Phone

City/State/Zip

CREDIT CARD & AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT INFO

Credit Card

MasterCard Visa Discover AMEX

Charge at this card # _____

of payments _____

Draft Date: 1st, 15th, or 20th of each month

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Automatic Bank Draft

Draft amount: \$ _____

of drafts _____

Draft Date: 1st, 15th, or 20th of each month

Bank Name: _____

Routing #: _____

Account #: _____

contribution

Name _____ (include maiden name)

Spouse's Name _____ (include maiden name)

Spouse's _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Print in newsletter? _____

I work at _____ as a _____

Latest news: _____

What org. & activities were you involved in at A&M? _____

Where on campus did you live while attending A&M? _____

Looking For... A '80 Classmate or other Aggies? Name(s) _____

Complete this section to list
 Your Newest "Aggie Relative" in...

Aggie Baby Central

BABY'S NAME: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Boy

Names and birthdates of other children: _____ Boys: _____

_____ Girls: _____

Aggie Grandparents/Cl Yr _____

Aggie Aunts/Cl Yr _____

Aggie Uncles/Cl Yr _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

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 P.O. Box 27571
 Houston, TX 77227

Patty Rabel '80
 13507 Olden Ct.
 Cypress, TX 77249

Sara Beaves '80
 12106 Rocky I
 Houston, TX



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