

Class of '80

Texas A&M University



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS®

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY®

NEWSLETTER

September 2006 - Vol. 26, Issue 1



Research Park on the west side of campus provides students a quiet place to study, relax with a friend or play disc golf.

HOWDY!

Greetings from your new Class Agent team! It's been a whirlwind year since our 25 Year Reunion, but we've got our feet on the ground now and are looking forward to serving you until our next Reunion.

Speaking of the Reunion, we hope that you were one of the 250+ Classmates that were able to join us in College Station for a fun-filled weekend last September. If you weren't able to join us, we missed YOU and you missed a great time. (OK—we know it was a little warm, but we won the football game and our Reunion wasn't wiped out by Hurricane Rita!)

Kudos to everyone who contributed their time, money and energy to making our Reunion a success! But

there are certain people that deserve special recognition, starting with **Bill Jentsch** and **Patty Rabel**, our retiring Class Agents. **Bill's** vision and behind the scene efforts ensured that we were able to hold down the costs and make the weekend as affordable as possible. **Patty's** great organization skills and communication skills helped us pull everything together and get the word out to the Class. **John Morton** contributed his counsel and the use of his fabulous cooker, even though he was unable to attend the Reunion weekend. **Mike Pack** had signed on to head up the cooking team, until his wife's pregnancy (see our Aggie Baby Central section inside) overruled their plans to attend. But **Bill** and **Mike's** great planning enabled **Michael Cutbirth** to pick right up, step up to the plate, and hit a home run! **Michael's**

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HOWDY! CONTINUED

cooking team included his brother John Cutbirth and two friends from Richmond, Tony Trevino and Bryan Meyer, Jr. **Robert Davis** contributed three wild hogs that the team cooked for the Friday night tailgate party. **Robert** also brought the cooking team some delicious steaks while the rest of us were at Midnight Yell. **Mark Schmidt** was the master bean chef and helped **Bill** bring the barbecue pit to College Station and returned it to its owner after the Reunion. **Steve Stewart, Mark Rhea,** and **Scott Hutchins** helped out Saturday morning by slicing the briskets. There were others of you that anonymously contributed time and money to making the barbecue such a great success. On behalf of the entire Class, thank you.

We left time in the Reunion weekend for smaller groups to have informal gatherings, and from what we hear, there were lots of them. The Association is using our approach as a model for other Classes to follow, so we must have done something right! We hope that you had the chance to visit and catch up with your long-time friends and make a few new acquaintances from the Class over the course of the weekend. My husband even said that he had a great time!

Besides the welcome reception on Friday night before Midnight Yell, the golf tournament was played on the A&M Golf Course. It's certain that none of us are missed on the PGA or LPGA tours! But we had a great time.

At the Saturday morning business meeting, we heard a campus update from Dr. Robert M. Gates, President of Texas A&M. In addition to his prepared comments, he left plenty of time for questions. I continue to be impressed by Dr. Gates' intellect and leadership as he moves our great university ahead towards achieving the

2020 Vision. At the barbecue after the game, I spoke with our own **Sue Redman**, who now serves as Chief Financial Officer of A&M, about working with Dr. Gates on a daily basis. She said it is amazing to watch him work a group of varied opinions toward a common goal.

In addition to electing our new Class Agent team, we voted as a Class to continue our fundraising efforts towards a 2nd President's Endowed Scholarship. We've raised almost one third of the required \$60,000. Thanks to **Bill Jentsch** for agreeing to chair our fundraising efforts. If you are interested in helping **Bill** as part of the leadership team for this effort, please send him an e-mail at aggie80@swbell.net. If you've previously indicated a willingness to pledge a gift towards our goal, **Bill** and his team will be contacting you to follow up on that commitment. *(Speaking of our President's Endowed Scholarship, our current recipient Tracie Book '07 returned from her fall internship in Germany and picked right back up where she left off. It's been a joy to watch her mature over the last three years. She continues to excel as an honors student in chemical engineering. Does anyone need a bright, hard working Chem E graduate with a great personality next spring? We'll put you in touch with Tracie this fall.)*

Following the business meeting, we all went across Wellborn Road to Kyle Field for March In and watched the Fightin' Texas Aggies overwhelming victory over the SMU Mustangs. While it wasn't quite the sign of things to come during the rest of the season that we all hoped it might be, we enjoyed the victory before heading over to The Association of Former Students' lawn for our barbecue. The buzz from Friday's activities resulted in over 50 walk up registrations on Saturday for the barbecue. Thanks to **Michael's** team for creatively coming up with more food to feed the hungry throngs!

We've included a few pictures inside from the festivities. If you have some pictures and/or Reunion memories that you would be willing to share with the rest of the Class either in the next newsletter or on our Class web page at the www.AggieNetwork.com site, please e-mail them to one of us. We'd love to share them with the rest of the Class.

By now, those of you that contributed pictures for the slide show should have received your CD from **Bill Jentsch**. We appreciate all of you for providing such great entertainment for us at the breakfast meeting on Saturday. If you missed it, we've posted the slide show at our Class News page on AggieNetwork.com. If you would like a copy of the CD, e-mail **Bill** at aggie80@swbell.net and for a contribution to our Class Gift Fund, he'll send one your way.

And finally, after a few production delays and allowing for Dr. Gates' and Coach Fran's busy schedules to personally autograph the pictures, we have recently received the commemorative photos of Dr. Gates and Coach Fran standing by our original Class Gift to the university, the E. King Gill 12th Man Statue. We are working on the labels for them and hope to get them to you around the same time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox. If you didn't pre-register for the Reunion and would like to receive one, we have just a few extra. Contact **Bill Jentsch** at aggie80@swbell.net.

We hope to see you before it's time for our 30 Year Reunion. I noticed some of you were registered for the All Aggie Reunion in San Antonio (also known as Maroon Out the Riverwalk) this past June. It sounded like a great way to enjoy a few days in beautiful San Antonio and share memories with multiple generations of Aggies. Send us a note to let us know all about the weekend.

Let us know what kind of Mini Reunion activities you'd like to see over the next few years. Now that so many of our Classmates have Aggies attending A&M, maybe planning an event around Parents' Weekend makes sense? Tailgates before or after a football game? Attending a basketball or baseball game? There are lots of possibilities, so let us know what you would like to do.

We also encourage you to participate in your local A&M Club's activities and invite your Class of '80 buddies to join you in supporting our great university through that avenue. What better way to expand your network than by meeting other Aggies in your community?

For those who attended your 30th high school Reunion this summer, wasn't it a hoot? I've tried to think back and remember what it felt like to be thinking about heading off to A&M for our first semester. It just doesn't seem possible that it has been that long ago!

Didn't this year's NCAA basketball tournament bring back memories of the spring of 1980? I still remember screaming from the top of "The Pit" at North Texas as the Aggies won their two games during the opening weekend of the tournament and advanced to the Sweet 16. Louisville defeated us in the next round and went on to win it all that year. I had visions of LSU doing the same this year, but alas they came up one game

short. But I'm sure we'll see our Aggies get back to the dance next year under Coach Gillispie. If you have the chance to support the team in person next year, take advantage of it. They will be exciting to watch.

With the changing of the guard and our last newsletter being focused on the Reunion plans, we don't have much news about our Classmates this go around. But what's up with all these Aggie Baby Central listings?? Please write to us or send an e-mail and catch us up on what's happening in your life. We'd love to send another newsletter full of your update, so please tell us about you and your family either via e-mail, snail mail, or a posting on our Class News page at www.AggieNetwork.com. We'll try to plan some kind of event around an Aggie sporting event, so be sure that your e-mail address is up-to-date with The Association so that we can let you know of our plans.

Look inside for more info about your new Class Agents, as well as news from the winter meeting of The Association of Former Students Leadership Council. We hope those of you with future Aggies in your family find the information about the admissions process and financial aid helpful. Hopefully the news flash about the summer workshops will reach you in time to be helpful.

Finally, we want to thank you for your financial support of A&M through your giving to the Annual

Fund of The Association of Former Students. The Class of 1980 gave over \$163,146 to the Annual Fund in 2005. We have consistently ranked among the top three Classes in both money contributed and percent of Classmates contributing. We have over 1,018 Century Club members and a total of 1,153 contributors to the Annual Fund of The Association. We understand that there are many, many competing priorities for your charitable gifts. Please accept our thanks on behalf of The Association for continuing to make a difference in the lives of past, present and future Aggies.

Gig 'em!

Sara, Michael, Steve and Russ

P.S. I actually had the newsletter almost finished on the 4th of July, when I decided it had taken me this long to wrap it up that I had to wait to really finish it until our very own NASA astronaut **Mike Fossum** had returned safely to earth from the Shuttle Discovery mission. I hope you got to watch some of the coverage on-line during **Mike's** spacewalks. I can only imagine the pride that **Melanie (London)** and their kids felt throughout the mission. It was so cool to watch the launch and spacewalks on the Internet with the NASA coverage and hear the live audio. And it was great to hear the Aggie War Hymn as the astronauts wake up call towards the end of the mission. We'll look forward to hearing more from **Mike** and **Melanie** in our next newsletter.

A REUNION CLASSIC

Contributed by Michael Cutbirth

This is a true story. My wife, **Dana**, and I were really good friends with **James Dees** when we were in school. At the Reunion reception on Friday night, we were explaining to Hannah, our 13 year old daughter how we knew **James** and that he was a BQ and head drum major our senior year. Hannah asked, "What's a BQ?" I explained

that it stood for Band Queer, which was a term of endearment that we used for the Corps members in the band. Her next question was when did that start and why? I told her that I didn't know but that I would ask **James** when we saw him at the reception. As fate would have it, we saw **James** and his wife and went over to visit

with them. As we were walking up to them, Dr. **Paul Preslar**, another old Corps friend, walked up and put his hands to **James'** face and planted a kiss right on his lips. I turned to Hannah, and her eyes were as big as quarters. I smiled and told her, "See, that's why we call them BQ's!"

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CLASS AGENTS

While we met many of you at the Reunion last September, we thought we'd take just a few paragraphs to re-introduce ourselves to all of you. We're looking forward to serving you, and wanted to update you on what's happening with us and how best to reach us with all of your news.

Sara (Feldman) Beaves is returning for a second five year term as Class Agent. **Sara** is beginning her 15th year at Service Corporation International in a variety of accounting and systems management positions. After helping to outsource her most recent position, **Sara** is currently working on a merger transition team for the next nine to 12 months. So it's hard to tell where she'll be this time next year! Anyone looking for a bright, energetic problem solver who wants to make a difference? **Sara** is still active in the Music Ministry of Chapelwood United Methodist Church, the Houston A&M Club, and the Association for Women in Computing. Her husband, Greg, is a 1981 graduate of the US Air Force Academy and 1992 graduate of the South Texas College of Law. After a long and winding career road, he's found his niche as a law enforcement

officer. When not working, **Sara** and Greg can be found at the movies, traveling, eating out, reading, spoiling their nieces and nephews, or playing an occasional game of golf. The best way to send **Sara** your news to share with the rest of the Class of '80 is an e-mail to thebeaves@earthlink.net or via snail mail to 12106 Rocky Knoll Drive, Houston, TX 77077. 713-851-8381.

After working in College Station for 13 months, **Michael Cutbirth** moved back to Richmond, TX, in October 2005, accepting a position as a Financial Advisor with the Knights of Columbus. Married to **Dana (Marton)**, they are the proud parents of Joshua ('03), Sara (University of North Texas '06), Jeni ('08), and Hannah (future member of '14). So the **Cutbirths** are very familiar with the costs of college education! While at A&M, **Michael** was active in the Texas A&M Marketing Society, Aggie Cinema, Catholic Student Association, and various intramural sports teams. Since our days at A&M, **Michael** has been active in the Ft. Bend County A&M Club, Board Member-Richmond/Rosenberg Summer Swim Team, Ambassador Group-

-Richmond/Rosenberg Chamber of Commerce, Board Member-Pregnancy Resource Center of Richmond, Grand Knight (President)-Richmond Knights of Columbus Council, Society of Financial Services Professionals, Financial Planning Association, and Ft. Bend County Estate Planning Group. And somewhere along the way, he learned how to be a master griller! Send news about you and yours to **Michael** at 7019 Renfro Drive, Richmond, TX 77469 or michaelcut@yahoo.com. You can also give him a call at 832-439-8231.

A native of College Station, **Steve Hensel** is a third generation Aggie with son Steve, Jr. ('08) on his way to making it four generations of **Hensels** to receive an Aggie ring and diploma. In addition to their son, **Steve** and his wife, Dana, are the proud parents of Taylor Ann, who is now a sophomore at Jasper High School in Plano. To pay the bills, **Steve** has held various sales and sales management roles for IBM, Digital Equipment Corporation, Flextronics and currently Computer Associates. Dana is a registered nurse, currently working as the school nurse

The 2006 Distinguished Alumni Gala

On Friday, October 13, 2006, The Association of Former Students will host its Distinguished Alumni Gala on the Texas A&M University campus. This annual event honors the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients and all Distinguished Alumni of Texas A&M. This year's recipients are *L.C. "Chaz" Neely, Jr. '62, Erle A. Nye '59, Robert Smith III '61, Richard W. Younts '67, Col. E.B. Cushing, Class of 1880, and Dr. Frederick E. Giesecke, Class of 1886.* To purchase tickets or tables or for more information, please call The Association of Former Students at (979) 845-7514 or visit www.AggieNetwork.com/DistinguishedAlumni/.



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for Jasper High School. While at A&M, **Steve** served as president of the TAMU Marketing Society and was a member of the Business Student Council. Since graduation, he has been a member of the Dallas A&M Club, Coordinator for the LifeTime Fitness Running Club, and coach for various Little League baseball and softball teams. In addition to enjoying golf and landscaping in his free time, somewhere along the way, **Steve** got the crazy idea that running marathons is fun! The U.S. Postal Service delivers your news to the **Hensels** at 7812 Cherry Creek Drive, Plano, Texas 75025, or you can drop an e-mail to **Steve** at sshensel@aol.com. 972-618-3114.

Russ Kellen has been married to **Debbie (Meuse)** for 21 years. **Debbie**

teaches kindergarten at Pebble Creek Elementary in College Station, where **Russ** started his own commercial flooring dealership in 2004. After working for Carpet Services/ DuPont as a commercial floorcovering dealer, for over 20 years as salesman & manager, **Russ** is enjoying being his own boss. Together, **Russ** and **Debbie** are the proud parents of Katy (18) and Stan (10). Katy is a senior and cheerleader at A&M Consolidated, and Stan is a fourth grader who loves all sports especially A&M sports. Stan plays baseball, golf and soccer, so most of the **Kellens'** free time is spent at either the kids' or Aggie sporting events. But **Russ** does manage to sneak in an occasional round of golf around his family, business, and volunteer commitments. While at A&M, **Russ** was active in Residence

Hall Association activities, serving on the Menu Board, as president of Walton Hall (may it rest in peace!), and as a Resident Advisor in Moses Hall. The **Kellens** make their home at 5104 Spanish Bay Ct., College Station, TX 77845. You can send your news there, or drop **Russ** an e-mail at russ@KellenFlooring.com. 979-690-1234.

So now that you know what's been happening with all of us, please help us do our job of keeping you connected to A&M and each other. E-mail us with your news. Brag on the kids! Celebrate your career milestones! Many of you are celebrating big anniversaries over the next few years—let us help you share the news. You get the message—if you tell us what's going on with you, we'll



George Mixon, III and his wife, Lisa Ann, announce the birth of Lela Grace on 12-27-05. She's hopefully figured out her days and nights by now so that Mom and Dad are getting plenty of sleep!

Many of you know that **Mike Pack** was going to head up the barbecue team for our Reunion last fall until complications with Teresa's pregnancy required them to miss the trip to College Station. They are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Elizabeth Joy on 10-25-05, at 07:05 p.m. Her proud Aggie family includes uncles Raymond Jarvis '23, Billy Jarvis '25, and Wesley Jarvis '67. Cousins Britt Jarvis '65, Jon Jarvis '68, Johnny Jarvis '70, Will Jarvis '88, Anne Marie Pearson '90, Kristi Jarvis '91, Bonnie Woolam '94, Ross Jarvis '95, Holly Jarvis '97, Shanna Jarvis '98, Scott Jarvis '00, and Stacie Jarvis '04.

Things are really hopping at the home

of **Steven** and Jessy (Van Bunder) **Robinson**. No, the **Robinsons** were not confused when they entered their Aggie Baby Central listing on our Class News page at AggieNetwork.com. They really do have three new babies! Triplets Willem Dean, Nickolas Steven and Emmy Beverly arrived on the evening of 5-15-06. Small but mighty, they join big brothers John and Remy and big sisters Jolie and Laura, causing Mom and Dad to be severely outnumbered! Uncles Phillip Robinson '78 and Jay Elder '72 will make sure all of the kids know the Aggie War Hymn before they get to preschool.



Texas A&M Wallpapers

Now you can show your Aggie pride on your personal computer by displaying one of the many free Texas A&M wallpapers currently available on AggieNetwork.com. Choose from over 120 different wallpapers in categories including the Aggie Ring, Support Our Troops, Corps of Cadets and Student Activities. To browse the various wallpapers, go to www.AggieNetwork.com/AggiePride/Wallpapers.aspx



2006 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Contributed by **Steve Hensel**

Here are my notes from the Leadership Council general session. I should probably have taped the session because my pen did not go anywhere nearly as fast as the speakers. So here is a bit of scatter shooting.....

Van Taylor '71 was introduced by Porter S. Garner, III '79 to kick off the meeting. Van is our new President for The Association of Former Students. Van recently retired from a senior executive position with SBC in Dallas and will be building a house in College Station. Van was instrumental in developing a strategic plan in 2005 to help position The Association of Former Students as the premier association in the country. We will see and hear more about this plan in the upcoming months.

So what is The Association's Strategic Plan? In short, The Association wants to communicate effectively and efficiently with the Aggie Network, increase participation and involvement, raise friends and funds for A&M and The Association, and deliver excellent customer service.

I couldn't believe it when I heard the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center is now 19 years old. Quite a bit has changed at A&M in 19 years. The Association is experiencing growing pains as from 1983 to 2004 the number of students increased from 35,000 to 44,435, the Former Students increased from 101,732 to 241,142 and the staff (at The Association) increased from 29 to 64. You will soon be seeing plans on how we will increase the size of our building to accommodate the growth.

General Hal Hornburg '68 is the Chair of the Fundraising Committee and gave a solid overview of the Annual Fund. As Former Students,

we raised \$6.3 million against a goal of \$6.75 million in 2005. In hindsight this was a remarkable achievement when you consider the year started off with a tsunami and ended with two devastating hurricanes. Aggies opened their hearts and their wallets making a tremendous impact on those affected by these terrible natural disasters.

The One Spirit One Vision campaign had a goal to raise \$1 billion dollars by the end of this year. At the end of 2005, we reached \$1.1 billion. What a great step to increase the excellence and prominence of our school.

Dr. Robert M. Gates was insightful, entertaining and showed why he is becoming such a strong leader for A&M. As you are aware, Dr. Gates wants to add 447 professors to the faculty over a five year period. By this September, we will have added 346. I must admit, I usually look at these things in financial terms. The dollars are certainly important but when I look at it in terms of the education my son will get because his Class sizes are already decreasing and will be down to a ratio of 17 or 18 to 1 in the near future, I get excited. The numbers of classes that have 50+ students were 33% and are now approaching 25%. As near as A&M can tell, this is the most aggressive expansion in history. Another way to look at this is A&M is taking strong steps to set ourselves up as a market leader while giving a better quality of education to our existing students.

Dr. Gates spoke about the continued increase in diversity at A&M. The total number of applications submitted to A&M this past year was over 20,000. African American applications have increased by 13% and applications by Hispanic students have increased 12%.

Another topic was on the challenge of providing a strong education to the 3,000 to 5,000 students at A&M that have a grade point of around 2.0. These kids' grades are solid enough but do not allow them to get into the majors they want such as business and engineering. Dr. Gates has tasked Dean Jerry Strawser '83 (Mays College of Business) to come up with a plan that will allow students to customize their degree plans to an extent allowing them to take the courses they are interested in and motivate them while still maintaining rigorous academic standards



AGGIE FOOTBALL *Gets Underway September 2*

The Fightin' Texas Aggie football team will kick off the 2006 season by taking on The Citadel on September 2.

This season, the Aggies will welcome Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana Tech, Texas Tech, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska to Kyle Field. For more information on the upcoming Aggie football season, visit <http://www.aggieathletics.com/>.

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION UPDATE

Contributed by **Russ Kellen**

Jim Palincsar gave us an update on the news at the Foundation. First, I have always wondered what is the Texas A&M Foundation and what does it do? Jim said, "The Foundation gets gifts, invests the gifts, and provides scholarships to Aggies." As far as getting gifts, The Foundation will finish up the "One Spirit One Vision" campaign this year with total gifts of approximately 1.4 billion dollars. The fourth quarter was the best in the history of the Foundation with \$23 million

in gifts. On the investment side, The A&M Foundation provides the investment management services for all of the money raised by the A&M Foundation, The Association of Former Students and The 12th Man Foundation. The average return on investment for the last four years has been about 12% per year. Man, I wish they were investing my money. The Foundation has several scholarship programs that donate money to deserving students. Just to mention a few, the President's

Endowed Scholarship program provides over 700 scholarships, the Sul Ross and Rudder scholarships benefit the Corps, the Foundation Excellence Awards benefit minority students and Endowed scholarships are available to well rounded and highly motivated incoming freshman. Jim said, "We are trying to make A&M a better place" and "We are looking for former students that want to help and want to make a difference."

INVEST IN THE FUTURE CLASS OF '80 PRESIDENT'S ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

As noted earlier in the newsletter, we voted at our Class Business Meeting to continue fund-raising efforts towards our 2nd President's Endowed Scholarship. Thanks to all of you that have contributed thus far to our goal of \$60,000. With approximately 6,000 living Classmates, the goal is easily in sight. If each individual gave up one soft drink, beer, or Starbucks a month over the next few months and contributed that amount to the Class Gift Fund, we'd have the remaining funds covered in no time! A pledge form is enclosed for your convenience.

If you are interested in being part of the leadership team to make this goal a reality, contact **Bill Jentsch** at aggie80@swbell.net.



Class of '80 Class Gift Fund Texas A&M Foundation

I want to support the Class of '80 Class Gift with my personal pledge (to be paid by over a 3 year period).....\$ _____
My company, _____, has a matching gift program and will contribute.....\$ _____
TOTAL COMMITMENT.....\$ _____

Name (Print) _____	Class _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____. Please make checks payable to TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION. On the memo line of the check indicate - Class of '80 Class Gift. (All contributions are tax deductible.)
Return to: Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840-2811

FINANCIAL & SCHOLARSHIP AID PRESENTATION

Contributed by Michael Cutbirth

Leadership Council Weekend ended with Dr. Alice Reinartz and Mr. Joseph Pettibon, II '92 presenting a discussion about financial aid and scholarship opportunities available for A&M students. We have new Prospective Student Centers staffed with full-time admissions and financial aid professionals in Houston, Corpus Christi, Dallas/Ft Worth, San Antonio, and McAllen. A&M has a race-blind admissions policy, and no points are awarded for legacy. Admissions is unbelievably competitive and getting more so. There were 21,000 applicants in September 2005 competing for only 7,000 seats for fall 2006 admission. The average SAT score was 1220. Thank goodness it was easier in 1976 or some of us would never have been Classmates. Forty-eight percent of this year's applicants were lucky enough to have graduated in the Top 10% of their high schools and thus qualified for automatic admission. The other 52% were subjected to the new admissions review process. Admission is now earned on a relative assessment based on each year's pool of candidates. The academic achievement and subjective

evaluation (personal achievement and distinguishing characteristics) of each individual candidate is evaluated on the Admissions Review Decision Matrix. Additional information is available on the web at www.tamu.edu/admissions.

As those of us with current students know too well, the average cost of attendance at A&M for the 2005 - 2006 academic year was just under \$17,000. Tuition and fees were \$6,400. In 1994, tuition and fees were only \$1,000. Approximately 33% or about 15,000 of the current students qualify for need-based financial aid. Seventy-five percent of currently enrolled Aggies receive some type of financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, student employment). Concerning scholarships, Pettibon suggested completing as many applications as you can. The scholarship deadline for Texas A&M is January 10 with one exception. Applications are open until August for Corps of Cadets scholarships. Pettibon encourages high school seniors to take the extra

college preparatory classes to help them look their best for college admissions and scholarships. Most scholarship award letters are mailed the first three weeks of March. Out-of-state tuition is an additional \$7,500. Additional information is available at <http://financialaid.tamu.edu>.

— Your site for... —
Aggie Resources
www.AggieNetwork.com

The Association of Former Students' Web site, www.AggieNetwork.com, makes numerous resources available for Aggies to utilize. In addition to the Online Directory of Former Students, AggieNetwork.com provides news from A&M, information and photos of Association events, A&M wallpapers and buddy icons to show your Aggie Spirit and a section designed to "Support Our Troops." For these and many other features that help you stay connected to all things A&M, visit www.AggieNetwork.com.

Class of 1980

C l a s s m a t e • N e w s

Did you see our Class of '80 proudly represented in the "Former Student News From the Front" feature in the May-June edition of *Texas Aggie* magazine by **Col. Jorge Garza** United States Air Force and **LCDR Erick Arroyo** United States Navy? They were pictured with other Aggie officers at Camp Eggers in Afghanistan. Show your support for **Jorge** and **Erick** and other Aggies serving in the military at www.AggieNetwork.com/TroopSupport. Thanks to all of you still serving our

country, as well as to those of you who now have sons and daughters that are serving to keep us safe and free. We appreciate you and your many sacrifices on our behalf!

After his most recent work as a Abiotech CEO, **William Altman** has joined Korn Ferry International in Houston as a senior client partner, concentrating on searches for health care and private equity-backed companies and recruiting board members

for large companies. He and wife, Danguole, both serve on the Board of the US-Baltic Foundation, and in 2005, **William** was named Honorary Consul for Lithuania for Texas. In addition to their work and volunteer commitments, the **Altman's** stay busy with their kids—Darius (7th grade), Indre (5th grade), and the twins, Ilona and Isabella (1st grade)—and their many activities.
william.altman@kornferry.com

Class of 1980

C l a s s m a t e • N e w s

David Applebaum sent a note to be on the lookout for an upcoming article in *InStyle* magazine this fall, featuring an interview with him and pictures of the house he designed for Cuba Gooding, Jr. **David** has enjoyed great success in southern California, designing homes for the rich and famous. You can check out his client list and recent designs at his web site, www.davidapplebaum.com.

Karl Crawley posted an update on our Class Page that his oldest son, Stephen (Alex) '09, has joined the Corps of Cadets L-1 Lone Star Company. Quoting **Karl**, "Alex is majoring in geology and has received a Murry Page Scholarship and a Sul Ross Scholarship, so obviously he didn't take after his dad. We have become regulars at home games and Midnight Yell Practice." *We'll look forward to seeing you this fall, Karl!*

Did you notice in the May 2006 *12th Man Magazine* that Classmates **Lou Ellen (Eastering)** and **Thomas Hassold** and daughter Lauren of Normangee were featured as contributors to the new Indoor Athletic Facility (a part of The Championship Vision Phase II)? *Thanks for your investment in the next generation of Aggie student athletes!*

Ron and **Brenda (Jernigan) Kapavik** report that their eldest son, Daniel, recently received his Class of '06 Aggie Ring. He'll finish as a fifth year senior next spring and will be commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the Marine Corps. *Semper Fi!* Middle son, Daniel, will be attending A&M this fall as a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2010. Youngest son Stephen plans to join the Class of 2012. **Brenda's** e-mail is brendak.22@sbcglobal.net and **Ron's** is ron.kapavik@woodmac.com.

Kurt Jentsch and Deborah (Walker) '81 have a new little Aggie, Sarah Kate, as of 3-10-05. Big brothers Eric and Caleb, as well as her Aggie Grandfathers Woody Walker '52 and Don Jentsch '51, Aunt Cindy Morris Walker '83, and Uncles John Walker '74, Jim Walker '83, and David Walker '84 will ensure Sarah Kate understands her Aggie heritage.

Gene Lewis has joined the international law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP as a partner in the Houston office.

James "Jim" Nixon was recently promoted to director of the Strategic Systems Department in the Signal Exploitation and Geolocation Division at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. **Jim** joined the staff at Southwest Research Institute directly after graduation from A&M. In his 25+ years at the Institute, **Jim** has been involved in the development of special purpose signal acquisition, radio direction finding and geolocation systems. His recent focus has been the development of an economical, scalable and very high capacity signal acquisition and direction finding system built using hundreds of networked commodity, off-the-shelf computers. He has also been involved in developing programs applying very high accuracy geolocation technologies for locating radio signals from shipboard, ground-based, airborne and rooftop sites.

Steve Ploch and Elizabeth (Prichard) '93 have been changing diapers again. Lucas "Luke" Timothy arrived on 2-18-05, at future linebacker size (9 lbs 4 oz.). He joins big brother Benjamin in the **Ploch** household. In addition to Mom and Dad, his Aggie lineage includes Uncles Gary Ploch

'76 and Tim Prichard '92 and Aunt Brandie Prichard '95.

Kevin Raabe and Rebecca (Ruhnke) '84 had another Little Aggie, Zane Joseph on 3-21-05. He weighed in at a healthy 8 lbs., 8 oz. He joins big sisters Lily, Claire, and Audrey. Zane's Aggie relatives include Uncles Paul Raabe '78, Steve Raabe '79, Brian Raabe '82, John Raabe '85, Curt Raabe '88, Aunt Tammy Janek Raabe '86, and cousins Becky Raabe '05, Suzanne Raabe '06, and Tara Raabe '09.

Albin and Jill (Opseth) Stanish welcomed their latest edition, Elizabeth Anne Hope, on 2-1-05. Elizabeth and her sister, Laura, are still outnumbered by brothers John, Benjamin, and Nathan, but Mom and Dad are really outnumbered!

Ronald & Julie (Bivens) Stiles welcomed William Wallace on 3-18-05. Looking out for William are his big brothers RJ and Quentin and big sisters Alexandra, Catherine, Gillian, and Caroline. That's a van or Suburban full of Stiles!

Lizabeth '79 & **John Ueckert's** son, Matt, was featured in the March 2006 *12th Man Magazine*. Previously a member of the Rice Owls' national championship baseball team in 2003, Matt transferred to A&M to complete his collegiate career as a left-handed pitcher and infielder on the Texas Aggie baseball team. Mom and Dad are now regulars at Olsen Field again, beaming with Aggie and family pride.

TEXAS A&M

- THROUGH YOUR EYES! -



Help us see what Texas A&M means to you! Please send us copies of photos that showcase your favorite A&M memories, traditions or events, and we will post them on a new section of our Web site, www.AggieNetwork.com/Memories, for your fellow Aggies to view. We will also be printing a select few of the pictures we receive in future newsletters. Please send only copies of the original photos. We will be unable to return the photographs and appreciate your authorizing us to use them to help stir fond memories of Texas A&M in other Aggies. Please send photos to:

The Association of Former Students
Attn: FSP - A&M Memories
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840

-or-

memories@AggieNetwork.com



Photo by Kasey Marsh '97



*Please send only COPIES of the original photos. Items sent to us will become the possession of The Association of Former Students for us to use at our discretion.



SILVER TAPS

CLASS OF 1980

Frances “Lynn” Brooks of Portland died 9-9-05. She practiced veterinary medicine in Portland until 1996 when she sold the practice due to declining health. Survivors include her husband, David Anglin; a daughter; her mother; a brother; and a sister.

Christina B. Collins Byfield of Alvin died 2-19-05, of ovarian cancer.

Mark Giamfortone of Friendswood died unexpectedly 11-30-05. He was executive director of Hampton at Post Oak, a senior living facility in Houston. He had a ranch in Centerville. Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Laura; a son; a daughter; his mother; and three sisters including Maria Giamfortone Manzo '83.

Cynthia “Cindy” (Brown) Holland of Carrollton (formerly of Dallas and Houston) died 12-5-04, of ovarian cancer. She worked for IBM for 16 years. Survivors include her husband, George; two daughters; two step-daughters; two step-grandchildren; her father and step-mother; and two brothers.

Andrew D. Kreston of Houston (formerly of Alice) died 8-29-04. He worked in the tax department of Arthur Anderson for several years before opening his own accounting practice. He was later chief financial officer for Tilson Home Corporation. Survivors include his wife of 15 years, **Elise Denney Kreston**; two sons; a daughter; his mother; two brothers; and three sisters, including Susan M. (Kreston) Frey '79.

John T. Ludeke of Garland (formerly of Wichita Falls) died 7-18-04 of melanoma cancer. He was a drug and

food investigator for the State of Texas. He was on the Texas A&M Soils Judging Team when he was at A&M. Survivors include a son; a daughter; his parents; two brothers, Max L. Ludeke '76 and Aaron K. Ludeke '87; and three sisters.

Sandra (Belzung) Nolan of Thornton died 1-02-06 of cancer. She had been the business administrator for Bremond schools before taking medical leave in 2004. Survivors include her husband, Larry Nolan '79; two sons, including Gary Nolan '06, a daughter, Sarah Nolan '04; her parents; and a sister.

Joseph R. Straccia of Arlington, MA, died 7-18-05. Survivors include his wife, Frances; a son; a daughter; his mother; and a brother.

David “Dusty” Tudor of Dripping Springs (formerly of Whitesboro) died 7-8-05. He was senior vice president of management services at Transwestern Properties. Survivors include his wife, Cindy; a son; and a daughter, Samantha J. Tudor '08.

Bruce Walker of Healdsburg, CA (formerly of San Jose, CA and Plano) died unexpectedly on 11-06-05, of a heart attack. He practiced architecture in the Dallas area before moving to Southern California in 1990 to work for LPA Architecture where his projects included the renovation of the Disneyland Hotel and several rides at the Anaheim park. Since 1998, he was chief architect and senior director of capital planning, design and construction at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA. His projects included the campus information center, a recreation center,

two residence halls, and the launch of the Green Music Center. Survivors include his wife, Therese; a son; a daughter; his mother; two brothers, Kenneth Walker '78 and Scott Walker '89, and a sister, Laura (Walker) Joiner '88.

Sheryl S. Stapleton Williams of Sugar Land died 2-6-05, the day before her 47th birthday. Survivors include her husband, **Douglas C. Williams**; a son; a daughter; her parents; and a brother.

Recent deaths for which we have not yet received obituary information are:

Tom Dowdy passed away on 3-12-06.
Cody Goldman passed away on 6-24-06.

Kenneth L. Mitchell, Jr. passed away on 6-4-06.

Shirley (Rhodes) Oldham passed away on 6-30-06.

Our condolences go to the families of all of these Classmates.



NEW



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Reunion Pictures



Reunion Pictures



Just my luck, the football team scores 60 points and my wife is at the game and I'm outside cooking BBQ. -Mike Cutbirth

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- MEMBERSHIP**
- Membership in The Association of Former Students is not dues based, but ACTIVE membership in The Association requires participation in the Annual Fund/Century Club.
- TAX DEDUCTIONS AND MATCHING GIFTS**
- The Texas Aggie magazine is valued at \$10 annually. No other goods or services will be provided.
 - The \$10 magazine value is not tax deductible and will not be matched by most matching gift companies.
- PLEDGES**
- The Association of Former Students' fiscal year is January through December.
- MBNA MASTERCARD**
- Using your Texas A&M MasterCard benefits The Association of Former Students.
 - If you would like information about the card, call MBNA at 1-800-847-7378 or visit www.AggieNetwork.com.
- CREDIT UNIONS**
- Please check with your credit union to see if you are eligible to use Automatic Bank Drafts.

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TEXAS A&M

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