



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CLASS OF '80

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS

Howdy, Class of '80!

What an exciting year for the Class! Hope you are enjoying a successful football season and are getting ready for the upcoming holiday season!

We had a successful and rewarding 45th Reunion and are already looking into hosting a 2027 Mini-Reunion. We encourage each of you to get involved and to be a part of our Class' many activities and social engagement opportunities!

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CLASS UPDATES

Over the past year Class of '80 members continued to engage in many activities together.

- April 2025 – Class of '80 Memorial Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) Recipient Luncheon.
- May 2025 - Presentation of the Class of '80 Core Value Award for Selfless Service.
- August 2025 – Class of '80 Cruise Adventure to Alaska.
- September 2025 – Class of '80 45-Year Reunion held on campus and at The Association of Former Students.
- September 2025 – Classmates who attended the Texas A&M vs. Notre Dame Game.



- October 2025 – Class of '80 President's Endowed Scholarship (PES) Recipient Luncheon

A Special Thank You To:

- Planning Committee for the 45 Year Reunion
- William Chris Vineyards - williamchriswines.com
- Members of Company F-1 for their consistent participation and support.
- Links for more info on Class Gifts – please consider joining our new Class Gift Committee chaired by Dillard Stone - aggiedcc80@gmail.com and Kyle Sears - kylesears@yahoo.com. Please respond by the end of the year as we are planning to start in 2026.

GIFTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CLASS GIFTS TO DATE

Our first Class Gift, the 12th Man Statue now permanently stands on the west side of the Rudder Fountain in Rudder Plaza, facing the MSC's 12th Man Hall. A little-known fact is that the statue's head is positioned so that Kyle Field can be seen between Rudder Tower and the MSC.

Link for more information: <https://classof1980.aggienetwork.com/12thmanstatue/>



A small crowd of dedicated Aggies braved the cold winds to attend the unveiling of the statue recognizing the originator of one of A&M's most sacred traditions. Class of '80 President Mark Murphy, above, officially presents the bronze sculpture to the University. Photo by Ken Moses '80.

President's Endowed Scholarship

This was our second Class gift and it provides one student approximately \$4,000 annually in scholarship funds.

Link for more information: <https://classof1980.aggienetwork.com/pes/>



Class '80 Memorial Endowed Opportunity Award Scholarship

In Honor of Kenneth F. McGuire '80, Bruce A. Netardus '80, and Kenneth G. McCullough '80, who died in the service of the nation. An Endowed Opportunity Award which honors Classmates that have died in the line of duty provides one student approximately \$1,000 in scholarship funds annually.

Link for more information: <https://classof1980.aggienetwork.com/memorialscholarship/>



Memorial Student Center Pillar

The Class of '80 donated a \$100,000 gift to the Texas A&M University as part of the 2012 MSC Renovation. The plaque shown below is located on the west side of the MSC. Stop by when you are in the MSC.

Link for more information: <https://classof1980.aggienetwork.com/mscpillar/>



Class of 1980 Core Value Award for Selfless Service

This award provides a \$5,000 stipend annually to the graduating senior that best exemplifies Texas A&M's core value of selfless service. This is the first of the six core values for which an award has been fully funded.

Link for more information: <https://classof1980.aggienetwork.com/ekgselflessserviceaward/>

GET INVOLVED

Class 1980 Gift Committee

Dillard Stone and Kyle Sears are organizing a new committee and looking for volunteers – contact Dillard and Kyle at aggiedcc80@gmail.com or kylesears@yahoo.com. Please respond by the end of the year as we are planning to start meeting in 2026.

Mini-Reunion Planning Committee

Brenda Grimsley and Patty Rabel have volunteered to co-chair the committee to plan our 2027 Mini-Reunion in Fredericksburg. Details coming soon!

Other Upcoming Events

Greek Isles Cruise

Dates: Sept. 16-25, 2026

Contact: Chris John's at NCL

Phone: 954-514-4185

Email: kcjohn@ncl.com

Australia/New Zealand Cruise

Dates: April 1-12, 2027

Contact: Chris John's at NCL

Phone: 954-514-4185

Email: kcjohn@ncl.com

Class Luncheon

The Foundation will be hosting a luncheon with our Class of '80 PES, EOA and Adopted Scholarship students in April 2026. To attend, please contact Ken Jones at texasaggie.general@gmail.com.

Class of '80 Core Value Award Presentation

The seventh Class of '80 Core Value Award for "Selfless Service" will be presented in May 2026. To attend, please contact Phil Gougler at pgouglerjr@gmail.com

CLASSMATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Arch "Beaver" Aplin III '80

The Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University, has been awarded since 1962 to only 354 of Texas A&M's more than 604,000 former students.

Presented jointly by the university and The Association of Former Students, this award recognizes Aggies who have achieved excellence in their chosen professions and made meaningful contributions to Texas A&M University and their local communities.

It is with great pride that we announce one of our own, Arch "Beaver" Aplin III from Lake Jackson, Texas, has been honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This prestigious recognition is a testament to Beaver's exceptional achievements and contributions to both his field and community.

As members of the Class of 1980, we are all incredibly proud to see Beaver continue to represent our class with such distinction and excellence. His accomplishments serve as an inspiration to us all, and we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate this well-deserved honor.

Please join us in congratulating Beaver on this remarkable achievement!

Lias J. "Jeff" Steen

Jeff is serving as The Association of Former Students' 2025 Chair of the Board. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from the South Texas College of Law. A native of Cuero, Texas, he has been involved in the energy business in various capacities since 1978, starting his career as a petroleum landman. Jeff spent over 33 years in various executive leadership positions with four publicly traded energy service companies, Oil States International, Schlumberger, Grant Prideco and Camco International. Currently, Jeff manages Steen Interests, a family office enterprise that includes real estate, ranching and oil and gas assets in Texas and New Mexico. To reflect his creative endeavors, he has participated in the development and production of 23 feature films and documentaries, the theatrical stage production of "Rear Window" and is the lead producer on the award winning international podcast, "Pack One Bag." As a student, Jeff was a founding member and the first president of Texas A&M University's Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was also active in student government and served as a student senator. Jeff was awarded the Star American Farmer Degree from the National Future Farmers of America during his sophomore year. Prior to his election to The Association of Former Students' board of directors, he served The Association as a representative at large. In the community, Jeff has been active in serving on numerous philanthropic and charitable boards. He currently serves as the chairman of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum Endowment, the managing trustee for the Steen Family Foundation and a trustee for the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Jeff's outstanding career, leadership, and service reflect the very best of Texas A&M and our Class. His continued contributions, both professionally and philanthropically, are a great source of pride for the Class of 1980.

Please join us in congratulating Jeff on this well-earned recognition!

Col. Micheal Fossum, USAFR (Ret.)

Michael E. Fossum '80 currently serves as a Vice President of Texas A&M University, the Chief Operating Officer of the Galveston campus, and the Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. Fossum joined Texas A&M following his retirement from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – Johnson Space Center in 2017.

Fossum is a veteran of three space flights with more than 194 days in space and more than 48 hours in seven spacewalks during his 19 years as an astronaut. During his last mission in 2011, Fossum served as the Commander of the International Space Station. He has logged over 2,000 hours in 35 different aircraft throughout the course of his career. Fossum earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1980. He is also a graduate of the US Air Force Test Pilot School and has earned Master of Science degrees in Systems Engineering and Physical Science/Space Science.

Fossum was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and grew up in McAllen, Texas. He is married to his Aggie sweetheart, the former Melanie J. London '80. They have four children and eight grandchildren. He enjoys family and outdoor activities. Fossum has been a lifelong supporter and volunteer in the Scouting program.

CLASS STATS

We do not have contact with nearly 35 percent of our Classmates since our primary form of communication is email. We are now sending all communications via email and many people are missing out.

Help us find them! Forward this email to them and ask them to give us their information by emailing a Class Agent or by updating their profile at AggieNetwork.com/Profile.

To find a Classmate or other Aggies you can look them up at AggieNetwork.com/FindAnAggie.

*Totals are as of October 2025 and are updated daily. All gifts were made to The Association of Former Students.

Total Classmates: 6,312

Living: 5,872

Mailable: 5,529
Emailable: 3,822
2025 Average Gift: \$319.06

HERE

Listed below are Classmates for whom the Association has received notification of passing away since the 2025 Muster. Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers. Click on a name for the full listing (when available), and visit our [Class Page](#) for all up-to-date listings.

Charles Mott	04/21/2023
Paul McCord	05/22/2023
Ann Thurston	01/01/2024
Bob McKenry	11/20/2024
Harlan Oehlke	12/06/2024
Davis Northcutt	03/26/2025
Michael Hagan	04/24/2025
Stephen Watson	06/10/2025
Brad DuPlantis	06/26/2025
Kells Rumsey	07/10/2025
Fannie Smith	08/13/2025
Earl Pullen	08/26/2025

We get notifications from The Association during the week with a list of Aggies that have passed away. Sometimes, The Association is not notified by the family or friends until months or years after death. Please let The Association know as soon as possible about the passing of an Aggie. You can email information to Class@AggieNetwork.com and AddAName@AggieNetwork.com.

The Association of Former Students is the oldest organization serving Texas A&M University in support of the ever-growing Aggie Network. We are **HERE** for Aggies during their days as students and former students, **THERE** for Aggies as they make their way around the world and **EVERYWHERE** the Aggie Network needs us to be. **To help us help more Aggies, visit tx.ag/Give.**



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