In this issue of Spirit, Professor Sam Mannan says, “Engineers must be educated in building a good safety culture.” Willie Blackmon ’73 says, “The track team in 1970, after setting several world records, became a model for the future recruitment of African-American athletes.” And Professor Carl Pearcy ’55 says, “You learn how to do something by doing it, not by watching somebody else do it.”
50 Years of Whoop!

$200 went pretty far in 1953. For an Aggie back then, it covered room and board for one semester. For 21 A&M alumni and leaders, it was the seed gift that created the Texas A&M Foundation.

From that first $200 gift in 1953, Texas A&M Foundation assets have risen to approximately $900 million today. We thank you all for your generosity. Our success cannot be credited to any one person. It is the cumulative efforts of all that have put us where we are today. And it is the cumulative efforts of all that will carry us forward.

In celebration of the foundation's 50th birthday, this issue of Spirit highlights Aggies who are embracing 50 in various ways:

- A&M in the 1950s thrived on public funding; today's success is fed by private gifts. – page 2
- Jim Keblinger '53 and J.C. Ryan '03 bridge 50 years. – page 6
- Turning 50 takes John Tyler '75 from the courtroom to the classroom. – page 10
- Three former students recount how the “big five-o” changed their Aggie experience. – page 12
- Carl Pearcy '55 honors math mentors of the 1950s. – page 16

Rose Ann McFadden '90, Editor
2 Going to the Source
A Wellspring of Support Produces Torrents of Success

6 Bridging the Generations
Carol & Jim Keblinger ’53 and Their Class of ’03 Scholar

10 Philosophy: 101
John Tyler Jr. ’75 Takes His Professor to Court

12 Turning 50
It’s a Whole New (Aggie) Experience

16 The Student Becomes the Teacher
Math Professor Carl Pearcy ’55 Honors His Mentors

18 Foundation News
A&M Ranks “Top 10” for Alumni and Corporate Giving
Keeping Pace with Peer Campaigns
Foundation Continues Strong in 50th Year
New Web Site Opens Window on Gift Planning

20 Great Aggies
Five Great Aggies. Four Great Ways to Give.
A&M in the 1950s thrived on public funding; today's success is fed by private gifts.

Dr. Robert Reid, distinguished professor emeritus of oceanography (above), and chemical engineering professor Dr. Sam Mannan (right)
"A river starts somewhere," chemical engineering professor Dr. Sam Mannan often tells his students. "You may see it at some point in its journey where it’s powerful, but where it started is a critical issue." Dr. Robert Reid, distinguished professor emeritus of oceanography, would certainly agree.

Both men are leaders in their fields, and their research directly benefits society. Reid’s storm surge forecasting and coastal engineering work have enabled coastal communities to better prepare for hurricanes. Mannan created the nation’s first centralized safety database for the propane industry, a database designed to help prevent chemical disasters.

Both Reid and Mannan have built programs from the ground up. Both know the satisfaction of helping their students launch illustrious careers. But their rivers of work began almost 50 years apart, and the "wellsprings" that support their projects today flow at quite different rates.

Reid was one of Texas A&M’s first oceanographers, recruited in 1950 from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography after consulting on an A&M Research Foundation project sponsored by United Gas Pipeline. The Department of Oceanography was barely a year old then. Over the years, Reid not only helped build a strong academic program, he
founded and edited the *Journal of Physical Oceanography* and served as department head.

He “sort of retired” from full-time teaching in 1987 but continues to serve on doctoral and masters’ committees. (He’s overseen nearly 100 advanced degree theses.) Reid’s former students include many leading professionals. Among them are former directors of the Naval Meteorology & Oceanography Command and the Institute of Geophysics at the University of Tokyo, and A&M Distinguished Professor Worth Nowlin ’58, ’60 and ’66.

In the first 30 years of his career, Reid’s research in storm surge forecasting, coastal engineering, tidal theory and ocean circulation was often supported by public entities such as the National Science Foundation. Today, private gifts play the lead role in advancing A&M.
In the first 30 years of his career, Reid's research in storm surge forecasting, coastal engineering, tidal theory and ocean circulation was often supported by public entities such as the U.S. Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation.

Today, support from those sources has slowed to a trickle. "We still get National Science Foundation funds, but the competition is very intense," Reid says. "It used to be a shoo-in, but you really have to scramble now."

In contrast, Mannan's work is attracting new funding almost faster than he can respond. The difference is private support.

Mannan is a former engineering company vice president who joined the A&M faculty in 1997 to direct the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center. The Center was established and funded by Houston businessman Mike O'Connor in memory of his wife, who died in a 1989 chemical plant explosion.

The Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Investigation Board asked the O'Connor Center to help NASA better understand its safety culture issues. A U.S. Senate committee utilized the Center's study on Y2K readiness among small and medium-sized companies. The U.S. Army depends on the Center's risk analysis research to safely destroy stockpiled chemical weapons. The Center also launched the National Chemical Safety Program, a nationwide database of accidents and safety issues—a $500,000 project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The O'Connor Center has helped boost A&M's stature as one of the national leaders in process safety engineering. And that advantage extends to more than graduate students.

"Process safety is part of the core chemical engineering curriculum [for undergraduates]. That has important ramifications because we graduate a significant number of engineers nationally," Mannan says. "On a societal basis, engineers must be educated in safety—not just in process design, but in building a good safety culture."

The specter of international terrorism has made the Center's work even more immediate. "In some ways, safety is synonymous with security. The more inherently safe a process is, the more inherently secure it is," Mannan says. "Plus, the ability to design resilient systems that may bend but not break has spawned a whole new area of research and activity that we're playing a part in. If the collapse of the twin towers at the World Trade Center had been delayed just one hour, imagine how many lives could have been saved."

The timeliness of the Center's work has obviously attracted considerable government and industry support. "But I don't think our leadership would have been possible without the support we've gotten from Mike O'Connor," Mannan says. O'Connor, who also endowed two chairs in chemical engineering, is actively involved in the Center's work and regularly attends consortium meetings.

Mannan expands on his river analogy. "If the spring that started our program hadn't been strong enough, other springs wouldn't have joined it," he adds. "With Mr. O'Connor's support, we were able to pull together a critical mass of people who had the ability, expertise and leadership to command national respect."
Fifty years have brought a lot of changes to the A&M student body, but some things never change. Nothing illustrates what Texas Aggies have excelled to—and what they've held onto—like the two stories below. One is the story of Jim Keblinger, an Aggie who earned his degree in 1953. The other tells of an Aggie who graduated in 2003, thanks in part to a Keblinger scholarship.
When James F. “Jim” Keblinger ’53 was a student at Texas A&M, Fridays were very important days. It was on Fridays that he always received a letter from his mother, a letter accompanied by five dollars. That five dollars was enough to get him through another week of college.

Keblinger’s father died when he was in third grade, and his mother clerked for the Farmers’ Home Administration to support him and his two brothers. Times were tough, but Keblinger didn’t consider himself any different from his classmates.

“I never felt like I was deprived or not on equal footing with everyone else, because everyone was in the same boat,” he said. “Those simply weren’t good economic times.”

At the age of 16, Keblinger graduated from high school in Jasper, Texas. Soon afterward, he and some fellow classmates decided to make their way to College Station.

“There were seven of us who packed up our stuff and went to A&M,” Keblinger said. “Only two of us finished our degrees.”

Failure to finish was often the result of financial need, Keblinger recalls. But he was determined and made do with grants he received as the son of a deceased veteran and money he earned selling programs and soft drinks at Kyle Field football games. In 1953, Keblinger became the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

“It was very important to my mother for that to happen; so I always felt good about that,” he said.

After earning his agriculture degree, Keblinger spent two years in the Air Force and then joined Shell Oil Company. He married Carol Achenbach in 1957. Soon, one of the couple’s favorite activities was taking their two children to Aggie football games. Eventually, the Keblingers endowed an athletic scholarship through the Aggie Club—now the 12th Man Foundation.

Later, they decided to fund an Endowed Opportunity Award through the Texas A&M Foundation. Jim used Shell’s matching gift program to help complete the gift.

“Without Shell matching our gifts, we wouldn’t have been able to fund the scholarship,” he said.

Jim decided to name the scholarship in Carol’s honor, recognizing her 31-year teaching career. Carol retired as an English teacher at Cy-Creek High School near Houston. Their scholarship is designated for graduates of Cy-Creek.

Since 1992, 12 students have benefited from the scholarship. One such student was James C. “J.C.” Ryan ’03. Without the scholarship, Ryan says he would have been forced to work his way through school, missing out on the extracurricular opportunities that make a Texas A&M education unlike any in the nation.

Georgia & Mike C. Dillingham ’35
Gift Annuity—Mike C. Dillingham ’35 General Rudder Corps Scholarship

Wanda & Lawrence A. DuBose ’42
Dr. Lawrence A. DuBose ’42 Endowed Fund for Student Activities
Dr. Lawrence A. DuBose ’42 Endowed Scholarship Fund
Margaret D. & Sebastian J. “Jack” Dutt Jr. ’45 Gift Annuity

David G. Eller ’59
David G. Eller ’59 General Rudder Corps Scholarship

LuAnn G. Ervin ’84
College of Veterinary Medicine

Annie Denena Ferrara
Fred C. & Annie D. Ferrara Endowed Scholarship

Gina & William H. Flores ’76
Corps of Cadets
William H. Flores ’76 Endowed Excellence Fund in Finance
William H. Flores ’76 Endowed Faculty Fellowships
William H. Flores ’76/Heep Endowed Graduate Fellowship

Dean S. Folse ’44
Dean S. & Jean D. Fols Endowed Fund

Harriet & Joe B. Foster ’56
Joe B. Foster ’56 Chair in Business Leadership

Dorothy & Ray Galvin ’53
Coastal Engineering Laboratory

Michael & Rose H. Garceau ’93
Ann C. Olson Scholarship Fund in Engineering

Rebecca W. & Robert M. Gates
Robert M. Gates Foundation Excellence Award

Jerrie & Kenneth Geisler
Geisler Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center Scholarship in honor of Dr. Gay Gosney ’68

Norman Gerdes & Margaret C. Gerdes
Charitable Remainder Unitrust—Frank Arthur Rosengquist & Agnes Theresa Rosengquist Endowed Fund for the Department of Large Animal Medicine & Surgery

Faye & Robert C. Hagner ’48
Faye & Robert C. “Bud” Hagner ’48 General Rudder Corps Scholarship
James C. "J.C." Ryan '03 admits he's a bit shy by nature. Needless to say, he was overwhelmed his freshman year by the sheer size of Texas A&M. But thanks to a freshman leadership organization, the electrical engineering major experienced a transformation. "It took me from being a fairly introverted person to being able to stand up in front of groups and lead," he said.
He installed and maintained all protection and mined to get involved and meet people, he were a bit rocky. He had a difficult time finding his place in such a large university. Determined to get involved and meet people, he joined LIFE. The people he met through that organization became his closest college friends.

About 600 A&M students receive an Endowed Opportunity Award (EOA) each year. The scholarships reward students who excelled in high school and assist them with the financial burden of earning a college degree. Scholarship selection criteria include academic achievement, test scores, class rank, financial need, participation in extracurricular activities, community service and work experience.

The Keblinger EOA provided Ryan with $1,000 per year. It was one of two scholarships he received.

"The two scholarships combined paid for more than a quarter of my education," Ryan said. "That means I haven't had to work while I've been in school. I've instead been able to involve myself in student organizations and church activities. It's helped me grow in ways I wouldn't have been able to if I had been working."

Ryan's first few months at Texas A&M were a bit rocky. He had a difficult time finding his place in such a large university. Determined to get involved and meet people, he joined LIFE. The people he met through that organization became his closest college friends.

Had he been forced to work his way through college, Ryan doubts he would have had time for Leaders in Freshmen Engineering (LIFE). And had he not received a four-year Carol Keblinger Endowed Opportunity Award, he would have had to work.

By the end of his freshman year, the quiet student from Cy-Creek High School had agreed to be a team leader. He then served as a co-chair his junior year.

"By my sophomore year, I felt at home here," Ryan said of Texas A&M. "And with this organization, I felt like I was able to pour into something."

LIFE is one several freshmen leadership organizations at Texas A&M and is part of the Student Engineers Council. LIFE gives freshmen an opportunity to organize social, service and other activities.

The leadership skills Ryan developed through LIFE have allowed him to do things he never imagined—like speaking to a packed house at Sbisa Dining Hall and serving as a team leader on his senior design project.

"Though public speaking may not be my favorite thing to do, it has allowed me to be more useful in leadership positions," he said. Ryan predicts that his newfound skills will reap a lifetime of benefits. Not only will they be essential to his professional success, he said, but they will help in church and community involvement, as well.

"LIFE has taught me that there are so many ways to involve yourself," Ryan said. "It's shown me that there are so many opportunities that God has given me, and if I'm not using them, they're just being wasted."

—by Kara Socol
Texas A&M course on logic was the most important class John Tyler '75 ever took. The impact of that class and its instructor—former philosophy department head Manuel “Manny” Davenport—has reverberated through the Houston attorney's 25-year career.

"Whenever I make a presentation to a jury, I think, 'How would Dr. Davenport approach this?'" Tyler said. The professor's influence was so great that Tyler has made several gifts to the Manuel Davenport Fund for Excellence in Philosophy. In all, the 50-year-old Aggie has given more than $28,000 to Texas A&M.

Tyler has built an impressive career in civil law. In the last decade, he's focused on representing individuals in suits against large companies. He founded three law offices, the most recent being Tyler, Das & Debes P.C., and has achieved more than $160 million in settlements for his clients. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is certified in civil trial law and personal injury law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Earlier in his career, Tyler specialized in what he calls "toxic tort defense work." He represented large companies in civil suits brought by employees suffering from work-related health problems. Then, one case changed the course of his career.

Philosophy: 10
Tyler was representing a company in a suit brought by the family of an employee who had died, and he began to suspect that the company was not being truthful about other instances of employee health problems.

"I asked myself, 'Am I doing the right thing by hurting widows and kids and representing clients who lie to me?'" Tyler said. "I was offended by the whole situation. That's when I went on my own to help individuals and families."

Basing decisions on principle—a trait reinforced by Professor Davenport—was Tyler's approach even in high school. He was drawn to Texas A&M's strong values, but financial need threatened that dream. The door opened when he was named a National Merit Scholar and received the Mayo J. Thompson '41 President's Endowed Scholarship at A&M. "That scholarship was very important to me," he said.

At A&M, Tyler studied philosophy, served in the Corps of Cadets and performed in the Aggie Players. He graduated and attended SMU School of Law on a full scholarship. There, he met his wife, Odile Mary Zientek, and the couple now has four children. Their son, Johnny, is a National Merit Scholar and recently received a President's Endowed Scholarship, just like his dad.

The Tyler children aren't the only ones enjoying the challenges of education. John himself recently stepped into the classroom ... and out of the courtroom. Instead of talking torts, he's talking literature and philosophy as a teacher in a Houston high school. Teaching at Second Baptist School is one way he can give back to his community, Tyler said.

"Litigation is a hard life, and I needed a break," he said. "At the end of a day of teaching, I have more satisfaction than I did as an attorney."

Tyler plans to return to law, since "those skills are too hard-earned to not be used." For now, however, his greatest joy is passing on what he learned from Manny Davenport and other professors.

"Dr. Davenport was such a gifted teacher and was interested in his students," he said. "I hope I've duplicated his style and am passing that on to my students."

—by Mike Downey
Turning 50 is a milestone. For many, it marks a time of decreasing family responsibilities and increasing leadership opportunities, a time of greater freedom and influence. Turning 50 was a milestone for the Texas A&M Foundation as well. To celebrate our birthday last September, we asked former students to tell us how the "big five-o" has affected their Aggie experience. Of the many wonderful essays we received, three stand out.
As a senior in 1968, I tried to pack as much of the Aggie experience into my life as possible, because I had no way of knowing whether I'd ever see Aggieland again after I left it. I knew that I'd be entering the Marine Corps and doing my stint in Vietnam. As many young men do who go to war, I gave some thought to enjoying myself, considering the possibility of not coming back. Obviously I survived the war, although I was twice wounded and medically retired. But circumstances made it difficult for me to return to A&M until Parents' Weekend 1996, which was, coincidentally, the year I turned 50.

Initially, I felt confusion because the realities of physical changes on the campus didn't agree with the images I'd held in my mind all those years. After helping to lead yells at Midnight Yell Practice, (I'd been a Yell Leader while a student.), and otherwise "walking down memory lane," I came to realize that the A&M of my youth was gone. I now had a son who was a student, and my role was to support him in his pursuit of his education. I transitioned from an old guy who immersed himself in memories to an old guy who understood that, while the Aggieland of my youth wasn't coming back, I could lend a hand in preserving the traditions we retained. I could support more fully the Association of Former Students, the Corps of Cadets Association, and the Association of Former Yell Leaders with both my time and finances.

My status as a former student, especially one who was 50 years old, made me realize that it was the "old guys" who had sustained the Aggie spirit and tradition of helping current students during the years that I had been a student myself. It had ever been thus, since the first former students formed the Ex-Cadets Association.

When I was a student at A&M, I lived the Aggie spirit and traditions every day. When I returned to the campus for the first time at age 50, I realized that complacently engaging in nostalgia didn't equate to living the Aggie spirit. I needed to give back what I could, not only financially, but also by trying to be the best Aggie that an "old guy" could be, because I AM the Aggie Network."
On April 16, 2001, I reached a milestone in my life: I turned 50 years of age. While reflecting over those glorious years, my mind drifted back the timeline to 1969, when I was one of the first openly-recruited African American athletes to attend Texas A&M University. President Earl Rudder had earlier made the unpopular decision to integrate the university. When he actively participated in the athletic recruitment of one Willie Blackmon, the world as I knew it was about to change.

The track team in 1970, after setting several world records and winning a conference title, became a model and a guide for the future recruitment of African American athletes. When Coach Emory Bellard arrived on campus, he requested the assistance of A&M’s African American athletes in the recruitment of football players of color.

Thirty years after my graduation from A&M, the Aggie spirit of protecting and taking care of its own has never let me down. Since the day President Jack Williams handed me my diploma at G. Rollie White Coliseum, Aggies have played a part in my being either hired or recommended for employment. I learned in my career trek that the best Aggie joke of all is, “What do you call an Aggie five years after graduation? Boss!”

I smile when I think about how events of yesteryear have forged the thoughts of today’s municipal judge. The countless speeches I’ve given to student groups have enabled me to impart the wisdom that has been gifted to me. When I speak, young minds can hear the thoughts of C.K. Eston, for many years the voice of Kyle Field and my speech professor; Professor Herb Thompson, my marketing instructor and mentor; and Professor Putnam, former Aggie track coach and my economics instructor, to name a few.

It is said that life is a journey; each one of us is a passenger; and if we’re wise we will enjoy the ride. Passing the half-century mark has allowed me to look back across the decades and realize that I have enjoyed the ride immensely.”
FLETCHER C. SMITH '72
Owner, Counterscapes & Shapes

"My life as an Aggie has changed now that I am 50. When I enrolled as a student 35 years ago, I wasn't wise enough to recognize the attribute that sets our university apart from all others. I gave little thought to the values on the university's atmosphere. Yes, the campus was definitely different than when I was a student, but the important part was the same. That is why I know that one day my grandchildren will greet visitors with a "Howdy" and link arms with their friends to "saw Varsity's horns." That sense of family, the special spirit that connects Aggies to one another, is just as visible on a campus of 40,000 as it was when there were 8,000.

Now that I am older I can appreciate the rigorous academic standards that gave me the qualifications to earn my living. I can confidently say that my children experienced this same quality education, and I have no doubt that future generations will as well.

Aggies have never been embarrassed to show their love for their country. I can never forget standing alongside my family and friends for "Red, White & Blue Out" on that September day in 2001. That was an example of the patriotism that our school has always exemplified.

Yes, my life as an Aggie has changed now that I am 50. My experience has enabled me to fully appreciate just what it means to be a part of a university where everything seems possible. I can anticipate A&M's future and view changes as challenges, because I know that the future is always sustained by the values of the past."

which A&M was built. Traditions were just "the way we do things here." Now that I am on the other side of that half-century mark, I know that the combination of past and future is what makes Aggies unique. It is that blending of old and new that separates us from other schools.

When my children enrolled in the 1990s, the qualities that exemplified Aggies from the very beginning were still evident. The same friendly, welcoming campus, the sense of belonging to a big family, the academic excellence, and the pride and love for our country were an integral part of the university's atmosphere.

"Now that I am on the other side of that half-century mark, I know that the combination of past and future is what makes Aggies unique. It is that blending of old and new that separates us from other schools."
The problems that race through Dr. Carl Pearcy's brain on an ordinary day suggest supersonic mental ability. They're about things like dual algebras, wavelet connectivity and quasinilpotent operators that most of us couldn't begin to explain. 

But you wouldn't know it talking to the unassuming Texas A&M mathematics professor who took his first teaching job in College Station 50 years ago this fall. Nor might you guess it from the photograph on his website: He's posing next to a person in a rabbit costume.

Pearcy, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas A&M in 1954 and 1956, received his doctorate at Rice University in 1959. He's a professor emeritus at the University of Michigan, where he taught for nearly 30 years before joining the A&M faculty in 1990. Concentrating on functional analysis, which deals with the phenomena of physics, quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and other sciences, Pearcy is the author of six books and more than 100 articles. He received prestigious National Science Foundation grants every year from 1964 to 1997—a phenomenal run.

Personal accolades aside, Pearcy's dedication to training teachers shows that his heart—like his mind—is in the right place. He has directed 29 dissertations, and many of his former charges now serve as faculty members at colleges across the country. He also recently endowed a fellowship that will be awarded annually to two incoming graduate students in the Department of Mathematics. The fellowship will honor, on a rotating basis, four former professors of the department. Three of them—Dr. R.E. Basye, Dr. E.R. Keown and Dr. E.C. Klipple—taught Pearcy. The fourth, Dr. N.W. Naugle, was a colleague.

A mentor's influence is no small matter, as Pearcy knows from personal experience. He was one of the math department's first graduate teaching assistants in 1954. In those days, the whole town of College Station fit between Texas
Avenue and Wellborn Road, most of the 3,000 students were in the Corps of Cadets, and the few beginning graduate students got a trial by fire. "We taught two courses, sometimes three," Pearcy recalls, adding that first-year graduate students today teach one class at the most.

Pearcy still uses the "Moore Method" of teaching, which he gleaned from Klipple, who in turn got it from his mentor, University of Texas Professor R.L. Moore. "You learn how to do something by doing it, not by watching somebody else do it," Pearcy explains. "I don't lecture very much. I put students to the board, working problems. The fact that I've had so many students—and so many good ones—is partly due to this technique."

Pearcy's professors also found time to be his friends. When Professor Keown and his wife left town for the summer, Pearcy stayed at their house. "They treated me like a son," he says. Keown taught Pearcy by example that "if you wanted to be a successful research mathematician, you had to spend huge amounts of time working at it."

He recalls afternoons at Professor Basye's rose nursery, talking math and roses. Before his death, Basye established a chair in Texas A&M's horticulture department. Pearcy followed that example by giving a rental property worth $100,000 to endow a fellowship. Once his gift is matched by the Heep Foundation, the endowment value will total $200,000.

Pearcy is proud of A&M's progress over the past 50 years and says he'll do anything he can to further the Vision 2020 initiative. When he was a graduate student, the mathematics faculty had 10 or 15 professors, he says. Now there are more than 100. "The whole university is much more sophisticated, and the faculty much higher quality," he says.

Fifty years ago, the math department offered remedial courses such as college algebra and trigonometry that aren't part of the equation anymore. However, core courses in real and complex analysis, algebra and linear algebra are relatively unchanged. "The math faculty (of the 1950s) was perfectly competent to teach those, and did a good job of it," Pearcy says. But today, he adds, no graduate student would get by without core courses in topology and geometry that didn't exist in his student days. And functional analysis is now "a huge mathematical topic," pervading even undergraduate courses, where it's known as matrix theory.

Another difference: Today's graduate math students tend to be older. Pearcy was 19 in his first year of graduate school; his students now are often in their late 20s.

But traditions that matter are still preserved, he says. "The friendliness on campus, and the helpfulness toward other people, still persist today," he says. "That separates A&M from almost all the college campuses in the country."
As of April 30, Texas A&M donors have given and pledged more than $785 million during the One Spirit One Vision Campaign. The total puts the campaign at more than 75 percent of its $1 billion goal. A&M and five other public universities have launched campaigns for $1 billion or more since 1999. The University of Texas campaign, an effort that began in 1997 and ends this August, has reached $1.5 billion.

The rankings are based on data gathered in the “2003 Voluntary Support of Education” survey conducted by the Council for Aid to Education, a national non-profit organization. Texas A&M’s standings reflect gifts to the university, Texas A&M Foundation, Association of Former Students and 12th Man Foundation.

New national rankings place Texas A&M among the top 10 public universities in corporate and alumni giving. Specifically, A&M ranks 7th among public universities in gifts from corporations and 9th in gifts from alumni.

“These rankings illustrate Texas A&M’s strong partnership with our corporate donors and the ever-growing generosity of our former students,” said Eddie J. Davis ’67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation. “Behind all the numbers and calculations is the fact that private support for Texas A&M affects tens of thousands of lives each year.”

The rankings also place Texas A&M 16th among public universities for private support received from all sources, including alumni, corporations, foundations and others.

The Texas A&M Foundation assets increased from $731 million to $892 million during the first six months of its 50th year. John R. Stropp ’66, senior vice president for administration and operations, said the large increase is due to several factors: the generous response of One Spirit One Vision donors, a strong investment program, and the addition of endowed funds from the 12th Man Foundation and The Association of Former Students.

Under new agreements, the Texas A&M Foundation now manages Association and 12th Man endowed funds. The two organizations have transferred more than $75 million to the foundation’s long-term investment fund and also appointed representatives...
to the foundation investment team. Cydney Donnell '81 represents The Association, and Lavon Anderson '57 represents 12th Man.

The Texas A&M Foundation long-term fund achieved a 24.4 percent total rate of return for the year ending Dec. 31, 2003. For the same year, the fund had three-year, five-year and seven-year annualized average returns of 6.6 percent, 8.9 percent and 10.2 percent, respectively.

The site provides interactive, personalized illustrations that show donors how to achieve their charitable and financial goals via giving methods such as bequests in their wills, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, life insurance and more.

Also on the site, donors can sign up to receive the free, monthly eNewsletter that provides news on estate planning topics such as investing, taxes, Social Security and health care.

A new web site at giving.tamu.edu/plan shows A&M donors how to plan gifts that can provide tax benefits and payments back to them during their lifetimes.

Our donors are important, and recognizing them is a high priority for the Texas A&M Foundation. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this honor roll, but it is possible for errors to occur. If you wish to report an error or omission, please contact Lynn Dodd, the manager of stewardship programs, at lynn-dodd@tamu.edu. Thank you.
Five great Aggies. Four great ways to give.

Smart planners know there's more than one way to give to A&M. At the Texas A&M Foundation, we help great Aggies use creative giving methods to benefit not only their university, but also themselves and their families. Gifts such as charitable trusts and gift annuities, for example, may provide tax advantages and extra income. To explore the many ways you can support A&M while achieving your financial objectives, give us a call at 800-392-3310. Or visit us at http://giving.tamu.edu/greataggies. We know great ways to make giving work for you.
Frequently Asked Questions

Do my gifts count in the One Spirit One Vision Campaign?

The campaign counts all gifts and pledges benefiting the university, whether made through the Texas A&M Foundation, The Association of Former Students or 12th Man Foundation. This includes planned gifts such as bequests. However, to be counted, gifts and pledges must be made during the campaign counting period, which lasts from January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2006.

Find it on the Internet

Learn more about stories in this issue of Spirit by visiting these Web sites:

A&M Photos from the 1950s–1990s
giving.tamu.edu/foundation

New Gift Planning Web Site
giving.tamu.edu/plan

Mary Kay O’Connor Process Safety Center
process-safety.tamu.edu

Oceanography Prof. Robert Reid
ocean.tamu.edu

John Tyler’s Law Firm
www.tddlaw.com

"Turning 50" Winning Essays
giving.tamu.edu/foundation

Math Prof. Carl Pearcy ’55
www.math.tamu.edu/~carl.pearcy

How to Give Real Estate
giving.tamu.edu/realestate
Requests & Comments: Summer 2004

*Spirit* is published to keep you informed about Texas A&M fund-raising efforts. If you have a comment or question, take a moment to fill out this form and mail it postage-free. Thank you.

**FIRST NAME**  **LAST NAME**  **CLASS YEAR**

**STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY**  **STATE**  **ZIP CODE**

**HOME PHONE NUMBER**  **DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

Check here if:  □ New home address  □ New business address

I have a comment/question:

☐ Please contact me about making a gift to Texas A&M.

☐ I'd like to know more about making an estate gift (trusts, life insurance, bequests, gift annuities).

I'd like to know more about supporting the following:

☐ Agriculture Programs  ☐ Assoc. of Former Students
☐ Architecture  ☐ Athletics
☐ Bush School of Gov't.  ☐ Corps of Cadets
☐ Business Administration  ☐ Faculty Support
☐ Education  ☐ International Programs
☐ Engineering  ☐ Libraries
☐ Geosciences  ☐ Medicine
☐ Liberal Arts  ☐ Scholarships/Fellowships
☐ Science  ☐ Student Life
☐ Veterinary Medicine  ☐ University Press

Other:

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You can contact the Texas A&M Foundation at the following:

**postal:**  401 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840-2811

**voice:**  979-845-8161 or 1-800-392-3310

**e-mail:**  v-evans@tamu.edu

**Internet:** giving.tamu.edu