A select group of students is recognized each year by The Association of Former Students for academic achievement with the Gathright Scholar Award and for improving the campus environment for themselves and others with the Buck Weirus Spirit Award. The awards were presented at the Parents’ Weekend All-University Awards Ceremony on April 18.

Established in April 1973, the Thomas S. Gathright Scholar Academic Excellence Award is presented by The Association of Former Students in conjunction with Texas A&M’s Student Government Association. Named in honor of Texas A&M’s first president, the award recognizes sophomores, juniors and seniors with the best academic records in each of Texas A&M colleges. It is the most prestigious award for academic performance.

The Buck Weirus Spirit award honors 52 students who are involved and enthusiastic and who help to enhance the Aggie Spirit. Unlike other awards, the Buck Weirus Spirit Award recognizes students who make contributions to campus life by participating in student organizations, Aggie traditions and university events. The award is named for the late Richard “Buck” Weirus ’42, who served as executive director of The Association of Former Students from 1964 to 1980 and personally awarded each award until his death in 1997.