Howdy Ags!

The phrase, *To Ride Hard, Shoot Straight and Always Tell the Truth* is the title of a autobiography, and has been used by countless others including an Air Force Fighter Squadron. To me, those 10 words epitomize Texas A&M and all Good Aggies, they reflect the school’s original purpose and the attitude of its first students. From the school’s humble beginnings until the time Texas A&M morphed into a world class University, Aggies were characterized as a rough and tumble, unrefined group that probably lacked the social graces that were acquired at enlightened universities. Obviously, these deficiencies could be overlooked when it was time for to go to war. For some reason during times of conflict, men and in later years women that Rode Hard, Shot Straight and Always Told the Truth were prized commodities that could always be counted on to get the job done. The part the enlightened crowd missed was; these traits are a natural part of a Good Aggie’s character. Riding Hard, Shooting Straight and Always Telling the Truth bears a strong semblance to, *doesn’t lie, cheat or steals nor tolerates those who do*. Its is simply who we are and what sets us apart. I’m proud that honor is a trait associated with Aggies. I would much rather be known as a straight shooter than the guy who has perfected the art of peeling an artichoke and always knows which of the seven forks around my plate to use.

Conversely, it appears that the enlightened and progressive universities all have a different philosophy. They are certain that political correctness is the foundation on which society should be built. I find it amusing that they truly believe they will solve the world’s problems using this approach. Common sense dictates a problem will not be truly solved until it is honestly identified and evaluated, which is something that political correctness normally makes impossible. I’m befuddled by the hypocrisy of the politically correct colleges. They go to great lengths to create an environment that ensures no one is ever made to feel uncomfortable, even if history must be revised. (Y’all know what history is; the stuff your doomed to repeat if you fail to learn from it). Furthermore, they are the protectors of all rights, both God given and self conveyed. Especially important to them is the right of free speech, as long as it’s in total agreement with what they espouse. In the event they disagree with a person’s point of view, free speech becomes an unacceptable inconvenience that must be halted by whatever means necessary. Cancelling a scheduled speaker, protesting, rioting, looting, burning or destroying others property and physical violence are all are acceptable and condoned because no one should be made to feel uncomfortable.

Recently, a speaker was scheduled to deliver a message on the Aggie campus that most felt was inappropriate and in stark contrast to Aggie values. Rather than engaging in the behavior described above, Aggies simply organized and attended an alternate event, or exercised common sense and chose not to grace the controversial speaker with their presence. Even though Aggie values are often viewed with contempt by the enlightened elitists that permeate esteemed bastions of academia, we all can be proud of our students whose actions were guided by the core values that are the foundation of a little college on the Brazos, a college named Texas A&M.

Gig ‘em,
J. Clay Deatherage ‘84
2017 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

AUGUST

2nd - Monthly Club Meeting
10th - Happy Hour Lytle Land & Cattle
17th - Board of Directors Meeting
19th - Fry Booth Cleanup Day

SEPTEMBER

5th - Admissions Workshop
6th - Monthly Club Meeting
7th-16th - Aggie Fry Booth
14th - Happy HOUR
21st - Board of Directors Meeting

Hot AGGIE Fries Are Acommin’
Counselors’ Meeting with College Reps
September 6, 2016

Joe Allen’s Corral Room
301 S 11th St, Abilene, TX 79602

9:30 - 10:00 am           Check in and welcome
10:00 - 11:30 am          University of Texas presentation
11:30-12:30 pm            Lunch provided by Abilene A&M Club
12:30 – 2:00 pm           Texas A&M University presentation
3:00 - 3:30 pm            Discussion for anyone wishing to remain

Texas A & M
will be doing a separate meeting for interested parents and students.

5:30 to 6:00 pm           Registration – order food
6:00 to 9:00 pm           Presentation (8th grade and older)
Texas A&M Heads Fortune Magazine CEO List
By Keith Randall, Texas A&M University Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M University is tied with the University of Michigan for having the most graduates currently serving as CEOs in the top 100 of Fortune 500 companies, according to a new Fortune magazine study.

With four former students serving as CEOs of some of the largest companies in the United States, Texas A&M has the most of any university in Texas and is only matched by the University of Michigan. Other schools on the Fortune list include Cornell University and Harvard University, both with three CEO graduates.

Texas A&M also is the only Texas school in the survey with a CEO on Fortune’s Top Ten list. Darren Woods, CEO and chairman of Exxon Mobil, studied electrical engineering at Texas A&M and is a 1987 graduate. His wife, Kathryn Woods, is also a 1987 Texas A&M graduate who earned a degree in accounting.

“This proves once again that Texas A&M has an outstanding record of preparing graduates for the workplace, and that we are a university that produces leaders,” said Texas A&M President Michael K. Young.

“We have a long history of graduates leading some of the world’s most successful companies and organizations. I have no doubt at all that we will continue to produce more outstanding business leaders in the years to come.”

Woods said his days at Texas A&M were the most formative of his life.

“To this day, I rely on the fundamentals that I learned at A&M to help me objectively evaluate complex issues and arrive at practical solutions,”
Woods told The Association of Former Students for a story in the upcoming July-August issue of Texas Aggie magazine. “Most importantly, my experience at A&M encouraged me to stay true to my values, take personal risk and commit to aspirational goals. “I am part of a family of Aggies. My sister, wife, in-laws and nephew all graduated from A&M. My youngest son is pursuing a degree from A&M. The emphasis that A&M places on values and tradition, in addition to providing a quality education, resonates with all of us.”

The other Aggies that are on the list are Bruce D. Broussard, CEO of Humana, Class of 1984; David M. Cordani, CEO of Cigna, Class of 1988; and Greg C. Garland, CEO of Phillips 66, Class of 1980.

John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, said the Fortune listing is another in a long line of accolades for Texas A&M graduates.

“This is one of the many reasons that A&M graduates are among the most highly recruited and earn some of the highest starting salaries in the nation,” Sharp noted.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Some other key CEOs did not make the Fortune 100 list due to leadership change after the magazine deadline or because the company is outside the top 100; those include Jeff Miller (Halliburton), Gregg Sherrill (Tenneco), William Thomas (EOG Resources), and Lee Tillman (Marathon Oil). In 2016, 1,350 former students showed up in The Association of Former Students database with a job title that included "CEO."

This story was originally published at http://today.tamu.edu/2017/07/05/texas-am-heads-fortune-magazine-ceo-list/

Aggies leading the pack and running the show

Is anyone really surprised?
Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW---Did you know that the citizens of Brazos County donated 2,416 acres to establish the Agricultural and Mechanical college of Texas. Those acres were described as “wild, bleak prairie, barren of trees and shrubs…except for one small mesquite tree”. Wolves were abundant: One early student was attacked by wolves during the day in full sight of the main building. Another was attacked at night when he fell off a porch.

Today, the Brazos county campus totals 5200 acres. Over the years the additional 2784 acres have been added in various increments, some purchased, others by donation. For example the 1900 Bryan Army Air base was used as “the annex” in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1962 the base was deeded to A&M by the US Army after the base was deactivated. The George Bush Library consists of 90 acres which opened its doors in 1997. Texas A&M Health Science Center was constructed on 200 acres in Bryan, with the first building opening in 2010.

If you are doing the math that is 2190 acres that are accounted for. The remaining 594 remain a mystery as of publication deadline. As a point of comparison the school down the road in Austin sits on 434 acres and unfortunately for them they are land locked. Texas Tech calls 1839 acres of west Texas prairie home. Again, our “little” school on the Brazos claims number one in the state and number nine in the country. Look out Michigan (5239 acres) we are catching up.. WHOOP!!

Roxanne Schoen ‘74
We want your feedback!

Is there anything that you would like to see in the next issue of The Abilene Aggie?

Do you have any ideas for events or fundraising?

We would love to hear about it! Please send any feedback to andrewmoto@suddenlink.net or 325-673-6707.

Prayers and Concerns

Please pray for our Nation’s, State’s and Communities’ leaders. Pray that they honor those who have sacrificed to make this the greatest Nation in the history of the world by setting aside personal ambition, petty bickering and extreme partisanship and simply work with the people’s best interest at heart.

Memorial Contributions

There are many ways to honor departed family members and friends. Should you select a memorial contribution that embodies the Aggie Spirit as a method to celebrate the life of a loved one, the Abilene A&M Club will consider it an honor to help ensure your wishes are met.

Local Club options include the Senior Ring & Boot Fund, the Freshman Scholarship Fund and the Class of ’43 White Belt Scholarship Fund. If your preference is one of the numerous organizations on campus or an affiliate of the Aggie network, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.
Statement of Purpose: Primary functions of the Abilene A&M Club are serving as the focus of all organized alumni activity in the Abilene area, and providing scholarship funds for deserving area students who are attending Texas A&M. The Club currently offers scholarships funded by your Membership Dues, Reveille Donations, Newsletter Sponsorships, the Aggie French Fry Booth at the West Texas Fair, A&M Football on radio and the annual Golf Tournament. Donations may also be made directly to the Abilene Community Foundation Texas A&M University Scholarship Fund (tax-deductible) which is a perpetual fund using only the income generated for scholarships.