



**WINTER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
February 21, 2009**

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After showing the "Welcome to Aggieland" video, Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, called the Winter Leadership Council Meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. in Lecture A and B in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner welcomed Dr. Elsa Murano, President of Texas A&M University and Dr. Ed Davis '67, President of the Texas A&M Foundation. Frank Litterst, Jr. '43, Class Agent, led the Pledge of Allegiance while Mack McGowen '09, Second Wing Chaplain, Corps of Cadets, provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF 2009 CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Garner introduced Shelley Potter '78 as The Association of Former Students 2009 Chair of the Board of Directors and presented her with a ceremonial gavel in appreciation for all that she has done and will do for The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University. Potter greeted the Council and stated she looked forward to serving as Chair. Although he was not in attendance, Potter thanked Immediate Past Chair Hal M. Hornburg (USAF, Ret) '68 for his service as The Association 2008 Chair and commended him for representing The Association so well.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: (Bill Flores '76/David Buttery '76) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2008 BE APPROVED. Carried.

**THE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

**Financial Report**

Jorge Bermudez '73, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2008 financial report and stated the total Association revenues for all funds in 2008 exceeded total expenses by \$51,977. Total operating revenues were \$11,481,147 which was \$393,853 less than a projected budget of \$11,875,000. Total operating expenses were \$11,429,170. Bermudez reported the total cost to raise one dollar last year was 19.6 cents, which is well below the Better Business Bureau's benchmark of 35 cents. As of December 31, 2008, The Association's net assets totaled \$68,475,629.

## **Fundraising Report**

Mike Havel '76, Board Member and Annual Fund Vice-Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported the 2008 Annual Fund raised the second largest annual fund in The Association's 130-year history in the amount of \$6,840,429. The Endowed Century Club, included 23 new funds totaling \$575,000, while memorials and other scholarship pledges totaled \$390,326. \$14,942,545 has been raised to date for the building enhancement campaign. Havel noted the 2009 Annual Fund goal is \$7,100,000 with \$1,488,074 raised as of February 19, 2009. Havel introduced and welcomed to the stage Benjamin Knox '90, Class Agent and artist, and his wife Melissa Knox '04, to unveil the original endowed Century Club painting which Knox was commissioned to paint for The Association of Former Students. Havel introduced Mark Gold '09, Student Body President, who offered the beneficiary report and how it impacts students at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M at Galveston after Hurricane Ike.

## **Legislative Report**

Otway Denny '71, Board Member and Chair of the Legislative Committee, presented an update on the upcoming 2009 Orange and Maroon Legislative Day (OMLD) scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Denny stated tuition will be a major topic of discussion and he thanked past volunteers and encouraged Leadership Council members to participate in OMLD.

## **Building Enhancement Report**

Jim Thompson '68, Board Member and Chair of the Building Enhancement Task Committee, gave a brief update on the building enhancement project and presented a video about the creation of the Aggie Ring sculpture which should be installed in the Haynes Ring Plaza in early fall.

## **TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT**

Dr. Ed Davis '67, President of the Texas A&M Foundation, reported the university-wide scholarship campaign, Operation Spirit and Mind, has a goal of \$300,000,000 and as of December 31, 2008 has raised \$139,000,000. He stated recent major gifts include a \$4,000,000 gift from Dan Hughes '51 to begin the reconstruction of Military Walk and Peggy and Lowry Mays '57 recommitted \$7,500,000 to the Mays Business School for the creation of two faculty chairs and matching funds for additional endowed faculty positions. Davis also reported that due to the generous donations from Cynthia and George Mitchell '40, construction is well underway on the George P. Mitchell '40 Physics Building and should be completed in January 2010. He stated major gift fundraising will soon be underway to raise \$20,000,000 to assist with the Memorial Student Center Renovation and Expansion Project. Davis also reported the Foundation's Maroon Coats program now includes 16 student ambassadors and 12 additional students will be selected this spring from a pool of 120 applicants.

## **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT**

Dr. Elsa Murano, President of Texas A&M University, reported the University had 14,000 prospective students and their parents registered to attend Aggieland Saturday on February 21, 2009. She stated there were 22,000 student applications for the Fall 2008 semester with 8100 students accepted and there were 26,000 applications Fall 2009 semester. Murano reports Texas A&M was recently recognized by *The Wall Street Journal's Smart Money* magazine as the number one university in the nation for "payback ratio" or the earning levels of an institution's graduates compared to what they paid in tuition, fees and related costs for their undergraduate

educations. The National Science Foundation recently ranked Texas A&M University number three in the nation for research expenditures, ranking behind only MIT and UC-Berkeley. She stated the International Atomic Energy Agency recognized Texas A&M University, along with MIT, as one of the top universities in the world for their nuclear engineering programs. Murano stated the Vision 2020 imperatives are still being followed as well as continuing work on the Academic Master Plan. Murano reported she and Mark Gold '09 recently presented testimony to the Texas Senate Finance Committee to assure strategic measures are taken to receive appropriate funding for the University. The Federal Government's Economic Stimulus Plan will bring \$3.9 billion to the State of Texas and the University will request funds to assist with infrastructure needs. The Memorial Student Center Renovation and Expansion Project will cost \$100,000,000 and will bring the facility up to current building standards, while at the same time, reallocate and reorganize to provide additional space for student programs, activities and meetings.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Potter invited Dr. Murano and Porter Garner '79 back to the stage to recognize one of the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award posthumous recipients, Frederick W. Heldenfels, Jr. '33. Fred Heldenfels IV '79 accepted on behalf of his late grandfather. Ross Volunteer Jordan Light '09 also recognized Frank C. Litterst, Jr. '43 as a 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient. Litterst offered his sincere thanks and appreciation for the award.

### **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Potter thanked The Association staff and the Leadership Council for their service and support. She reminded the Leadership Council to make plans to attend the Fall Leadership Council Weekend and rededication of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center scheduled for October 30 and 31, 2009. Potter noted Dr. Robert Gates will be the speaker for the 2009 Campus Muster on April 21, 2009. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelley E. Potter '78  
2009 Chair of the Board

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Porter S. Garner III '79  
President and CEO