



Notebook is your source for news and information about Aggieland. If you have a story to share about current events from the A&M campus, e-mail us at TexasAggie@AggieNetwork.com.

AGGIE NOTEBOOK

Texas A&M Again Excels In National University Rankings

Texas A&M ranked in the national Top 10 among institutions enrolling new National Merit Scholars. After gaining 27 National Merit Scholars in 2009's freshman class, the student body reached more than 550 scholars total. The report was released by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. "This is great news—and extremely gratifying coming right after the announcement that

Texas A&M is included among the nation's top 10 public universities in a 'best value' assessment by *The Princeton Review* and *USA Today*," said Texas A&M President **Dr. R. Bowen Loftin '71**. A&M's National Merit program has in the past received funds from The Association of Former Students' Annual Fund. In addition, the May's Business School Professional Program in Accounting was ranked second in a new report from *Financial Times* of the top accounting schools in the nation.



Change Allows Seamless Transfer To A&M From System Schools

Students from eight schools in The Texas A&M University System will experience a simplified transition process for transferring to the flagship institution in College Station. A five-year pilot project was approved on Jan. 21 by University President **Dr. R. Bowen Loftin '71**. It permits a simplified transfer process for students who have at least 24 credits to transfer and a minimum grade point ratio of 3.0. "We are delighted to be able to cooperate and share resources with the other A&M System universities in this manner," Loftin said.



Annual Big Event Successful In Helping Local Community

For the past 28 years, Texas A&M University students participating in The Big Event—the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation—have shown their appreciation to the Bryan-College Station community in a day of giving. On March 27, Aggie students said “thank you” to local residents by completing service projects such as yard work, painting and window washing at numerous locations. “The idea is just about building relationships between A&M students and the community,” Director **Mallory Myers '11** said. Organizers said more than 14,000 students volunteered and completed about 1,400 jobs.

Prospective Freshmen Welcomed For ‘Aggieland Saturday’

Several thousand prospective freshmen and family members visited campus Feb. 20 for Aggieland Saturday. The annual event serves as an introduction to campus, with a self-guided tour of campus housing, libraries and computer labs along with group sessions on financial aid, student organizations, student services, and traditions. Each academic college also hosted informational sessions and activities throughout the day. Aggieland Saturday is sponsored by The Association of Former Students and organized by the Office of Admissions and Records.

Cadet Basketball Team Wins National Tourney

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets men’s basketball team won first place at the 2010 annual Flyin’ Irish ROTC Basketball Classic in Indiana in January. The cadets went undefeated against Iowa State, Purdue, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Notre Dame, among 39 other ROTC units from around the country.



Corps Units Win High Honors

Three Texas A&M Corps of Cadets special units achieved highest honors at their respective competitions. The Parsons Mounted Cavalry took first place Jan. 16 in the Riding Group Competition at the 2010 All-Western Parade for the Southwestern and Livestock Show in Fort Worth. The Corps Color Guard and Fish Drill Team fared well Feb. 12 at the annual Mardi Gras Drill Team Competition in New Orleans. The competition, often referred to as the national championship, featured 55 teams from around the country. A&M’s Fish Drill Team, the only all-freshmen cadet team in attendance, placed first overall for their fifth consecutive championship. Also at the Mardi Gras competition, the Corps Color Guard took first overall in the Color Guard division.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BANKS

A&M Joins Tillman Military Scholarship Program

Texas A&M is one of four universities selected this year as a partner in the Tillman Military Scholarship Program. The program, founded by the Pat Tillman Foundation, will provide educational scholarships to deserving service members (or their family members) attending Texas A&M. Pat Tillman was a professional football player for the Arizona Cardinals who gave up a multimillion-dollar contract to join the Army after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Pat Tillman Foundation chose Texas A&M for the partnership due to the University's demonstrated support of students involved in the military.



Teens In The Driver Seat

Teen drivers in Texas are learning safer driving habits thanks to the Teens in the Driver Seat Center, a product of the Texas Transportation Institute. The program—led by Director **Russell Henk '87**, Director of Public Affairs **Bernie Fette '82**, **Jen Ross '05** and **Samantha Holland '08**, aims to reduce the almost 6,000 teen fatalities caused by traffic accidents each year. TDS has reached more than 350 Texas high schools to promote awareness of safe driving habits and has been recognized with multiple national awards. "These young people are so great to work with," Henk said. "Every handful of new schools we work with unveils a new idea or a new testimonial that leads to a fresh program element and the feeling that we just came up with something new



El Paso students announce their Teens in the Driver Seat program at a news conference.



that's going to save lives." According to recent studies, Texas has experienced the nation's sharpest and most consistent reduction in fatal crashes involving teen drivers since the TDS program began.

(TTI is a separate unit within The Texas A&M University System, not a department within Texas A&M University.)



Corps Congratulates Loftin With Surprise Review

The Corps of Cadets welcomed newly installed Texas A&M University President **Dr. R. Bowen Loftin '71** with a surprise march to the president's house on campus. The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band played as the cadets marched in formation, with Loftin, his wife, Dr. Karin Loftin, and other University officials reviewing the cadets from the president's porch. "This is very exciting. I'm stunned," Loftin said. "This is probably the greatest honor of my life."