When arriving at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center, visitors walk past a series of six walls dedicated to Texas A&M University’s core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service. The first wall on the east side is inscribed with a quotation from S. Shariq Yosufzai ’74, the 2010 Chair of the Board of The Association of Former Students:

“In the heart of every Aggie dwells excellence: the unending drive to enrich the world around us.”

Yosufzai, known as “Sharq” to his friends and colleagues, is well-qualified to speak of excellence. At Texas A&M, he was a Distinguished Student and a member of the Corps of Cadets, helped initiate the Opera and Performing Arts Society, was elected vice president of the student body and president of the Student Senate, and participated in the Student Conference on National Affairs. In his professional career, he again achieved excellence, rising through the ranks to his current position as vice president of downstream, where he leads Chevron’s participation in the Supply and Infrastructure Committee of the National Petroleum Council. His alma mater has recognized him as both a Distinguished Alumnus and an Outstanding International Alumnus. And he has consistently and generously given of his time and personal resources to support Texas A&M, The Association of Former Students and many other nonprofit organizations, from the San Francisco Opera and California Chamber of Commerce to Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Yosufzai credits A&M with laying much of the groundwork for his professional success. “Clearly, the world-class education I received in chemical engineering provided the basis for my future career,” he says. “Although I have spent the majority of my 35-year career with Chevron in management, the rigorous process approach to problem-solving I learned as a chemical engineering major has served me well. Of equal importance was the ‘other education’ I received at Texas A&M. My leadership experiences in the Corps of Cadets, as student body vice president and as a delegate to SCONA were instrumental in shaping my world view.”

Yosufzai’s involvement with those student organizations also helped him to hone his leadership skills. “Between 1972 and 1974, the Student Government Association was quite a game-changing organization,” he recalls. “I don’t think most people know this, but Student Government made the recommendation that changed the name of the Board of Directors of The Texas A&M University System to Board of Regents. It was also instrumental in changing the hierarchy for graduating with
Latin honors and launched the University Bus Service.”

Today, as the 2010 Chair of The Association’s Board, Yosufzai leads the worldwide Aggie Network and continues to positively influence the organization, just as he has since joining the Board in 2005. As a three-term chair of the Finance Committee, he brought deeper insight into the organization’s planning and budgeting process and enhanced the reporting of financial information. In addition, he served on the Compensation, Fundraising, and Building Enhancement committees and chaired a Distinguished Alumni Task Force committee. He gives generously of his own resources to Texas A&M, including as an Endowed Century Club donor.

“I continue to give of my own personal resources as a direct result of the assistance I received while a student at Texas A&M and the profound personal growth I experienced while a student,” he says. He is also a generous donor to The Association’s Building Enhancement Campaign, and he encourages former students to visit the newly enhanced Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center to see the core values in action. “The building enhancement has helped broaden The Association’s reach and connection to all former students. The facility serves as an inspiration and reflection of our Aggie heritage.”

Born in the city of Dhaka—then part of East Pakistan, now the capital city of Bangladesh—Yosufzai first encountered Aggies through two universities in the region that had been established, in part, through technical agreements with Texas A&M. He could have attended almost any Western university, but he chose Texas A&M for the traditional values, innovation and creativity he witnessed through the University’s partnerships in East Pakistan. The first-generation Aggie immediately immersed himself in the Aggie Spirit, and that Spirit still fills his heart and imbues his life today.

“The biggest impact on my life is the notion of selfless service and excellence instilled in me while I was a student,” he says. “The Aggie core values continue to be the guiding light in everything I do. Perhaps the greatest satisfaction comes in knowing that these values are shared by all Aggies.”

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**AT A GLANCE: S. SHARIQ YOSUFZAI ’74**

**EDUCATION**

Yosufzai, The Association of Former Students’ 2010 Chair of the Board, was 17 when he enrolled at Texas A&M in 1970. He was a Distinguished Student, a member of the Corps of Cadets, participated in the Student Conference on National Affairs, helped initiate the Opera and Performing Arts Society, was elected student body vice president and president of the Student Senate, and named to Who’s Who. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

**CAREER**

After graduation, Yosufzai joined Texaco in 1975 as a process engineer at the Port Arthur, Texas, refinery. Rising through the company, he served as president, Texaco Lubricants Co.; corporate vice president, Caltex Corp.; president, ChevronTexaco Global Lubricants; co-president, Chevron Products Co. Most recently, he served for nearly seven years as president of Chevron Global Marketing with responsibility for marketing in 90 countries under three world-class brands, Chevron, Texaco and Caltex. Last month, he was named vice-president, downstream, responsible for Chevron’s participation in the “Fuels of the Future” study commissioned by the National Petroleum Council. He was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in 2002, was awarded the Robert L. Jacks Memorial Award by AIChE’s Management Division in 1995 and was named Lubricants World Magazine’s “Person of the Year” in 1996.

**KEY AGGIE INFLUENCES**

“There are so many, it is hard to single one out for the danger of leaving someone out. A few weeks ago I ran into Charles Hornstein ’53 in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. I had not seen him in over 37 years. Dean Hornstein, as I called him then, was the ‘foreign students advisor’ when I arrived. His guidance was instrumental in helping me make a successful transition to Aggieland. The late Dean Clifford H. Randsdell, assistant dean of the College of Engineering, and the late Dan Hanson, professor of chemical engineering, along with Ray Anthony, were guiding lights while I was a student. Dr. Vaughn Bryant, who started anthropology here, was my most memorable professor and taught me how to navigate the softer side of life. Dr. Carolyn Adair and Dr. John Koldus (I was on the team that selected him for his position as vice president of student services) and President Jack K. Williams were incredible mentors. Among student leaders, Student Body President Layne Kruse ’73, Vice President of External Affairs Barb Sears ’74 and Residence Hall Association President T. Mark Blakemore ’74 were outstanding role models. Friends like Scott Eberhart ’74, Randy Milling ’74 and Ted Paup ’74 were also of incredible help to me personally.”

**ADVICE FOR GRADUATING SENIORS**

“My climb up the corporate ladder has been full of twists and turns. As a newly minted chemical engineer, I arrived at the Port Arthur refinery for my first day of work as a process engineer eager to tackle any challenge placed before me. However, to my surprise, I found myself sweeping floors on the first day due to a strike; therefore, never be afraid to try your hand in a new arena—one person’s job may be your opportunity. During my 35-year career with Chevron, I have held 17 positions and traveled to over 65 countries. Each new challenge has been filled with tremendous opportunity. My advice to new graduates is to embrace each opportunity with enthusiasm, be respectful of your colleagues, and always try to work beyond your comfort zone both professionally and geographically. Always try to leave your last position a bit better than when you found it.”