



50
YEARS
MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Respecting The Past, Writing The Future

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAYS BUSINESS SCHOOL

BY CAIT SHIELDS '11

For what began as an agricultural college, having students well-versed in business seems essential. In fact, Texas A&M has taught its students how to take care of business from the very beginning with courses in bookkeeping and creamery management dating back nearly to the founding of the university. Like so many things at Texas A&M, the interest in and excellence of business courses and the students who took them increased over time, and now A&M boasts one of the top business schools in the nation.

Mays Business School is marking 50 years in 2018, celebrating its many milestones and looking forward to what's next.

A&M's College of Business Administration was officially formed in 1968; until then, business, marketing and accounting courses were taught in various colleges and departments. The business school has since grown to offer undergraduate, graduate, MBA and

Ph.D. degrees in addition to a host of certificates, all while consistently ranking among the top in the country.

"Our mission is to be a vibrant learning organization that creates impactful knowledge and develops transformational leaders," Mays Dean Eli Jones III '82 said. "Mays educates more than 6,400 students in accounting, finance, management, management information systems, marketing and supply chain management."

Mays is consistently recognized at the forefront of business education, with accomplishments such as being tied with the University of Michigan for having the most graduates currently serving as CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, according to a 2017 *Fortune* magazine study, to 94 percent of Mays master's students being fully employed within 90 days after graduation in 2016.

One core component is emphasis on students having high-impact learning experiences, which aim to "deepen

learning and foster student engagement. Rather than simply listening to a lecture, learning by rote, and taking an exam, students actively pose and solve problems, work collaboratively in a community of peers, experience real-world applications of knowledge, and reflect on their learning processes," the school said on its website.

Adam Krupa '19, a student in the Professional MBA program, said these types of experiences can leave an impact.

"The format forced us all into time-pressured leadership positions with unfamiliar challenges and no time to prepare," he said of a Leadership and Professional Development Course he and other second-year MBA students participated in last May that posed a set of mental and physical challenges at the Corps of Cadets Leader Reaction Course. "Through the support of our new teams and the alumni facilitators, we overcame many of the challenges and, most importantly, found out a lot about ourselves as leaders."



The center hosts the Aggie 100 award, which ranks the 100 fastest-growing Aggie companies, celebrating the success of Aggie entrepreneurs around the world while providing a forum to pass lessons to the next generation. In partnership with The Association of Former Students, they also put on Aggie Entrepreneurship Saturday, which is a one-day event that aims to connect start-up-minded Aggies with successful Aggie entrepreneurs to learn, collaborate and build connections.

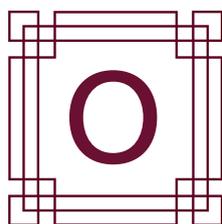
In the spring 2018 issue of *@Mays* magazine, Jones said entrepreneurship is embedded in the framework of Mays. “Looking through the lens of entrepreneurship, we encourage our students, faculty, and staff to adopt an approach of explorer, producer, and promoter in all they do. It is an exciting way to create transformational leaders, which is part of our mission.”

The move toward educating entrepreneurs is spread campuswide, from the Blackstone LaunchPad and its mobile kiosks that move around campus designed to mentor students about entrepreneurship opportunities at A&M, to the new Mays Innovation Research Center, which will collaborate with the Texas A&M School of Innovation, or I-School.

Taking their entrepreneurial and innovation skills into the workforce, across its various degrees, Mays undergraduates average a 79 percent job placement upon graduation.

Mays now has a worldwide network of more than 62,000 former students. “We have a close-knit and supportive alumni community of Aggies who are willing to help open doors for other members,” Jones said.

Many alumni give back to the school by volunteering as speakers, corporate recruiters and partners, advisory board members and student mentors.



ur vibrant learning organization encourages collaboration and innovation, uncovers synergies, fuels the school’s capabilities and strengthens our reputation... [and] it is critical for Mays to explore and pursue opportunities for distinctiveness,”

the school’s strategic plan said.

One of the Grand Challenges in particular got a significant bump in 2017, when the Mays Family Foundation committed a \$25 million gift to develop students’ entrepreneurial capabilities through a new Lowry Mays Entrepreneurial Leadership Academy Program with the McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship. The gift will also support several areas of innovation in the school, including the proposed expansion of the school’s headquarters, the Wehner Building, and the school’s study abroad programs. This is the largest single commitment in the school’s history.

“I am honored to help support the school’s vision to advance the world’s prosperity,” Lowry Mays ’57 said. “I am especially grateful to support Mays Business School’s vision to develop transformational leaders and to tackle the challenges of entrepreneurship and innovation. If we can somehow, through this center, start a fire burning in a student and provide an education that helps her get over the stumbles that are bound to come—prepare them through this center to overcome what would normally stop other individuals—then I will consider it a great success. It will be part of my legacy.”

The Mays Family Foundation was established in 1994 by Mays, founder of Clear Channel Communications, and his wife Peggy. Their 1996 gift of \$15 million resulted in the school being named for him.

Entrepreneurship has long been a pillar of the school. The McFerrin Center, renamed in 2017 from the Mays Business School’s Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship after benefactor Arthur “Artie” McFerrin, Jr. ’65, is a powerhouse of innovation, encompassing 27 programs and serving more than 3,000 students and 1,000 former students per year.

To continue to top its high standards, Mays is focusing on three Grand Challenges, as defined in its 2017-21 strategic plan:



Entrepreneurship
improving economic development



Energy
providing sustainable and efficient energy



Health care
enhancing human, animal and plant health



BY THE NUMBERS

7th

among public institutions for faculty scholarship
Financial Times, 2017

7th

among public institutions for its full-time MBA
Bloomberg Businessweek and Forbes, 2017

1st

in work experience among U.S. public schools, 10th in U.S. public institutions for its MBA executive program
Financial Times, 2017

Top 25

U.S. public institutions for its MBA professional program
U.S. News & World Report, 2019

51%

of students are male

49%

of students are female

38

Countries around the globe where Mays graduates are working

79%

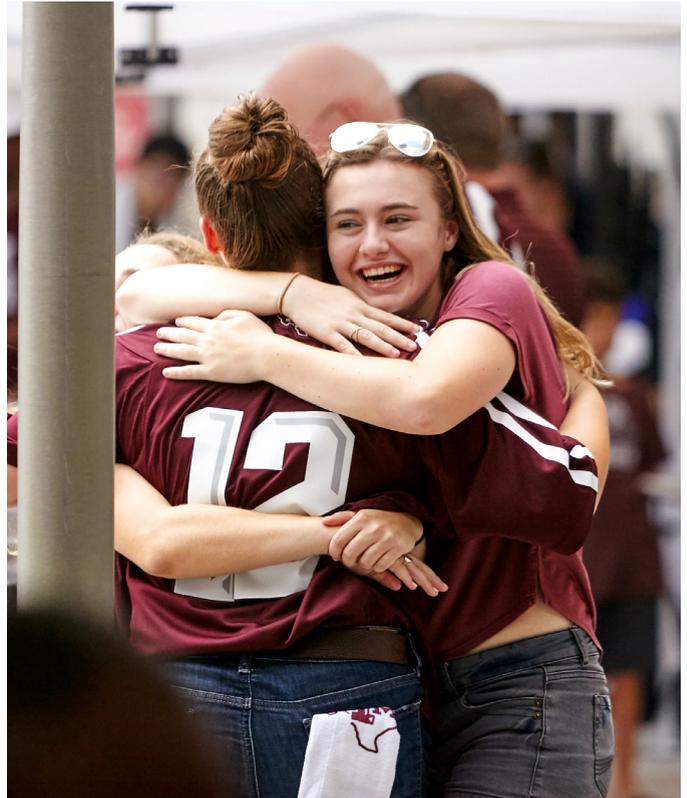
average job placement rate after graduation

86%

of MBA students receive offers before graduation

\$55,205

average salary after graduation for undergraduate students



AN *a mays* ING CELEBRATION

Mays commemorated its golden anniversary by uniting prospective, current and former students for an “aMAYSing” celebration weekend in September.

“Considering Mays is only 50 years old and we are a Top 20 public business school indicates the quality of our faculty, staff, students and programming,” Jones said.

Attendees heard about the latest in artificial intelligence, lifelong learning and the professional of the future, and transformational leadership by business school leaders. Hundreds, including Texas A&M President Michael K. Young, turned out for a tailgate at Wehner before the Aggies took on the Clemson Tigers.

Young recalled some of the challenging events this country experienced in 1968, the year the school was founded. “This school could not have come at a better time. Any time you want to do something on this campus that has to do with the way we train our leaders, the kind of research we do, this school is at the forefront,” he said, citing Mays projects McFerrin Center, Blackstone LaunchPad and Startup Aggieland. “It also studies it to ensure what the students learn to do is based on real data and real information and on consequential ideas that really happen. You can trace innovation and business after innovation, after innovation that has launched out of this school because it has an extraordinary passion for teaching, and teaching wrapped in the values that we at this university hold so dear.”

Milestones in



Peggy and Lowry '57 Mays

1876-1920

Business education intermingled with mechanical and agricultural programs. Courses included single- and double-entry bookkeeping and creamery management

1920

Department of Economics offers business courses

1921

Agricultural Administration programs offer business courses

1926

Formation of accounting and statistics, farm and ranch management, marketing and finance departments

1946

Department of Business and Accounting formed in School of Arts & Sciences. First master's degree awarded in accounting and statistics

1961

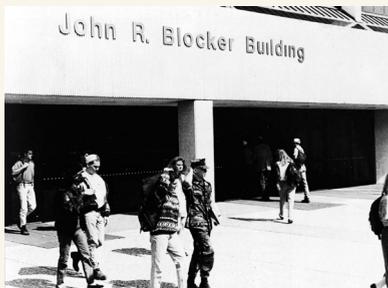
School of Business Administration formed

1951

General MBA degree offered. Department moves from temporary structure into Francis Hall

1990

Center for Human Resource Management established. Center for International Business funded as a Center for International Business Education and Research



1995

College moves to the Wehner Building. Graduate Business Career Services center created



1998

Implementation of master's degree in agribusiness

1996

College is endowed by Lowry Mays '57, founder and CEO of Clear Channel Communications. In honor of this \$15 million gift, the college is renamed the Lowry Mays College & Graduate School of Business.

1999

Executive MBA Program accepts first class

2002

College renamed to Mays Business School

2008

Executive MBA Program ranked #1 by *The Wall Street Journal*. Mays CPA pass rates among the highest in Texas. First Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) program offered at Texas A&M

2005

The Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship hosts its inaugural Aggie 100 award ceremony



Mays History



1965

School of Business departmentalized into programs of study in accounting, business analysis and research, finance, marketing and management

College of Business Administration formed



1972

College accredited by American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. First Ph.D. awarded

1981

College moves to the Blocker Building

1983

Center for Retailing Studies established. Fellows Program created



1986

Business Honors Program created

1987

Texas Real Estate Center moves to college from College of Agriculture. Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship created

1989

Center for the Management of Information Systems created

1968



The Texas A&M Marketing Society in 1968.

2012

Full-Time Mays MBA rises into Top 10 in *Bloomberg Businessweek* ranking. Mays opens custom educational facility in CityCentre Houston for Professional and Executive MBA programs.

2010

Mays finance program ranked 5th nationally by recruiters

2013

All Mays accounting programs break into Top 10. Mays undergraduate program receives all As in national rankings

2016

Mays undergrad programs move up in *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Business Programs" to 17th among public universities and 27th overall.

2015

MS Business program is launched



2017

Mays receives \$25 million commitment from Mays Family Foundation, the largest single commitment in the school's history. Mays is recognized as "Top Tier" in *The CEO Magazine's* 2017 Global MBA Rankings and with AACSB International's 2017 Innovations that Inspire award.