

## In Memory



On December 28, 2003 the Aggie family lost one of its own. Serving his country in Iraq, Cpt. Ernesto M. Blanco '98 was killed while conducting a support mission in Qaryat Ash Shababi when an explosive device struck his vehicle.

Born in Hartford, Conn., Cpt. Blanco grew up in Texas and attended Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, Squadron 16. He graduated with a degree in animal science and joined the Army in April of 1999, becoming a part of the 82nd Airborne Division in March 2001. Cpt. Blanco left for Iraq in September, when he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment based at Fort Bragg, N.C. He was the leader for the support and transportation platoon, which is responsible for supplying and transporting the battalion's soldiers.

While deployed to Afghanistan last year, Blanco earned a Bronze Star and his Combat Infantryman Badge.

He is survived by his parents, **MOTHERS NAME** and Jose Blanco, and his fiancée Michelle Sorrell.



### Aggie Named to Crew of New Space Shuttle Mission

Michael E. Fossum '80 has been named by NASA as a member of the crew of the newly created Space Shuttle mission, STS-121. STS-121 will be the second shuttle off the pad after flights resume in approximately one year. The crew will re-supply the International Space Station with equipment and consumables and will also continue the testing and development of new hardware and procedures designed to make Space Shuttle flight safer. Mike, along with several other NASA Aggies, recently participated in a series of Zero Gravity flights on NASA's KC-135 to support testing of spacewalk hardware and techniques that would be used to inspect and repair the Space Shuttle's thermal protection system tiles.

### Aggies in Armenia

In 2002, brothers Arsen and Artak Poghosyan got their Masters degrees in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M. They then moved back to their birth country of Armenia, where they now work as marketing specialists. They work to stimulate the export of Armenian agricultural products by private enterprises. With their help, many Armenian businesses are gaining technical and financial information that assists them in identifying and reaching out to new markets. As part of the assistance program, international consultants are invited to work with local Armenian companies. Recently, Dr. Thomas Deeb '87, Vice President of GSC Mobile Solutions, was invited to visit Armenia for a period of two weeks. He is pictured here with Artak Poghosyan '02 (right) and Arsen Poghosyan '02 (left).



### Former Student Gains Honorary Membership in AMSE International

Karl J. Springer '57 has been honored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for developing test methodologies for measuring emissions of smoke, odor and particulate matter from internal combustion engines and advancing this understanding via an extensive publishing activity. For his accomplishment, Karl will receive honorary membership in AMSE International, a distinction which recognizes a lifetime of service to engineering or related fields.

### Former Student Pins On Second Star

Major General William Fraser III '74 pinned on his second star in October. He is currently Director of Operations, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The directorate is responsible for developing policies and programming resources for Air Force technical and aircrew training.