FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Horns and Aggies: Together for Texans

AUSTIN, Texas – Alumni from The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University will join together for Orange & Maroon Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 5. This year will mark the sixth biennial legislative day for alumni from both schools to set aside their rivalry and join forces at the state Capitol to stress that an investment in UT and A&M is an investment in the future of Texas.

Alumni from both universities will jointly visit with legislators to show their support for keeping The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M competitive and affordable. Longhorns and Aggies will call on legislators to restore the sharp general-revenue cuts made in 2011 and to make two strategic capital investments 1) the Engineering Education and Research Center at UT and 2) the Bio Containment (BSL-3) Facility at A&M. Both schools will be encouraging legislators to restore funding for the Competitive Knowledge Fund to the levels originally intended: $1 million of state support for every $10 million of external research funding secured.

“As the flagship public universities of Texas, UT and A&M are vital to the past, present and future of our state,” says John Beckworth, president of the Texas Exes. “What Orange & Maroon Legislative Day shows is that our rivalry strengthens both institutions, and we are united to advance our common interest in the very best higher education for Texas.”

“We are proud to work alongside the Texas Exes to promote the significant impact our two flagship universities make on our state, nation and world,” adds David Heath ’76, 2013 Board Chair for The Association of Former Students. “Together, our universities seek to serve the citizens of Texas and deliver both excellence and value in education.”

Around 200 alumni from The Association of Former Students and The Texas Exes will participate in this year’s Orange & Maroon Legislative Day. University of Texas at Austin President Bill Powers and Texas A&M President Bowen Loftin will be on hand throughout the day as honored guests of both associations.

The Association of Former Students is one of the largest and most respected alumni organizations in the world. With more than 390,000 alumni, The Association proudly promotes the interests and welfare of Texas A&M, while maintaining ties of camaraderie among former students. The Association’s $7.2 million impact on Texas A&M includes more than $3.4 million annually toward funding of student scholarships and financial aid, student activities and awards, and faculty enrichment. For more information on The Association of Former Students visit AggieNetwork.com.

The Texas Exes is one of the strongest alumni associations in the country. Today there are around 99,000 members whom the association strives to connect to each other and to the past, present and future of the university through career counseling, travel, reunions, continuing education, fellowship, legislative advocacy in support of higher education and The Alcalde magazine. For more information on Texas Exes or to become a member, please visit www.TexasExes.org.

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Orange & Maroon Legislative Day Schedule of Events:

12:00 p.m. Legislative Day Kick-Off Event – Sheraton Austin at the Capitol Hotel, Ballroom
2:30 p.m. Alumni Legislative Office Visits – Capitol
4:30 p.m. Legislative Day Reception – Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, Creekside