**Aggie Real Estate Network**

**Q&A with Clint Cooper ’99**

**Whom does the Aggie Real Estate Network serve?**

The Aggie Real Estate Network serves all Aggies in the real estate industry. Our membership includes leaders in multiple facets of the industry, including valuation, finance, development, consulting, lending, asset and property management, brokerage and owners of investment and commercial property.

**Why is it important to the members Aggie Real Estate Network to make connections with one another?**

The real estate business is driven by networking and access to information and expertise. Who better to call on than a fellow Ag when you need a hand.

**What’s the Aggie Real Estate Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?**

The Aggie Real Estate Network strives to educate, promote and support commercial real estate professionals to become industry leaders, network with their peers, provide scholarships to current students and support the real estate programs at Texas A&M University.

**Do you know why did this group of Aggies decided to connect by creating a Constituent Network?**

Initially, the Aggie Real Estate Network - first known as Association of Texas Real Estate Economist (ATREE) and later as the Society of Texas A&M Real Estate Professionals (STAMREP) served as a way for graduates of the Master’s of Land Economics and Real Estate (LERE) program to keep in touch after graduation. Over the years, the organization has grown and sought ways to add a real value proposition to the membership. Becoming a Constituent Network has really help facilitate that process. We now can reach Aggies in the industry, whether or not they went through an industry focused degree program.

**What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?**

I think one of the best things our group does is provide a channel for current students to meet and build relationships with some of the top professionals in the industry. Connecting students with internships and employment opportunities a key part of our network.

**How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?**

We have regional happy hours and other events throughout the year, but our largest event is our annual meeting and conference every summer - the past year we met in College Station and we had about 200 attend. It was a great weekend with some of the leaders in the industry headlining our conference and lots of activities such as dinners, golf and skeet shooting.

**How can someone interested in the Aggie Real Estate Network get involved?**

Just visit our website: [www.aggierealestatenetwork.com](http://www.aggierealestatenetwork.com) and sign up for membership.

**What can you say to help convince them to get involved?**

I would just encourage someone who’s on the fence to visit us at a happy hour or join us at the annual conference. It’s a pretty easy sell once they meet some of our members.

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**Association of Former Singing Cadets**

**Q&A with Craig Kalkomey ’05**

**Whom does the Association of Former Singing Cadets serve?**

The Association of Former Singing Cadets serve all former and honorary members of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets.
Why is it important to the members of the Association of Former Singing Cadets to make connections with one another?

Time in the Singing Cadets is one of the best times of many of our formers’ lives while at A&M. While in the group, they make lifelong friends who become best friends, groomsmen at weddings, god parents, and hopefully be there to bury us someday. The Association of Former Singing Cadets is there to maintain those connections between members and keep them connected to the current Singing Cadets on campus and Texas A&M.

What’s the Association of Former Singing Cadets’ driving purpose? Mission statement?

The purpose of the Association of Former Singing Cadets is to provide assistance for the Texas A&M Singing Cadets and its objectives in any fashion or method deemed appropriate, keep appropriate records pertaining to members of the Association and to provide the vehicle for expression of joint interests, concerns, endeavors in all matters pertaining to the Singing Cadets, and aid in any matters in conjunction with the Texas A&M University Association of Former Students deemed beneficial to the Singing Cadets.

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?

We became a constituent member because we share many of the same goals of The Association of Former Students. We both exist to keep contact with former students and promote Texas A&M University. We decided to become a constituent member so we could work together and utilize each other’s resources.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

We help keep our formers involved in Texas A&M by encouraging them to visit campus and attend Singing Cadet concerts all over the State of Texas. We also encourage them to invite friends and family that may or may not be Aggies when they visit campus or attend concerts. This could lead to future students or fans of Texas A&M.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?

The Association of Former Singing Cadets organizes an annual Reunion every fall and help the current Singing Cadets promote their performances and encourage all of Former Singing Cadets in the different areas to attend.

How can someone interested in the Association of Former Singing Cadets get involved?

The Association of Former Singing Cadets is open to all former members of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets. For information they can contact the Choral Activities Office.

What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?

My favorite memory from Texas A&M is singing the Chinese National Anthem for Former President Bush and a group of Chinese Diplomats at the Presidential Library.

Black Former Student Network

Q&A with Ken Robinson '93

Whom does the Black Former Student Network serve?

The BFSN serves Texas A&M University, Former Students, and Current Students toward the realization of their mutual goals, objectives and activities for its Black constituent population.

Why is it important to the members Black Former Student Network to make connections with one another?

Sustaining friendships, strengthening the Aggie Network, collective support of Texas A&M, and specifically, support of the current student population are all reasons for members of
the BFSN to connect with one another. BFSN members connecting is good for the member and Texas A&M.

**What’s the Black Former Student Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?**

The Black Former Students Network (BFSN) is an organization committed to promoting the interests of Texas A&M University Black Former Students and Black students currently enrolled at the university. Towards that end, the BFSN strives to promote recruitment and retention of Black Students at Texas A&M University and to facilitate financial assistance for Black Students currently enrolled. The BFSN supports the activities of Texas A&M University toward the realization of its educational program and seeks to forge relationships which promote goals and projects which strengthen the ties between the Black Former Students Network, the community, and the University.

**Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?**

After having several “Reunion” type events at Texas A&M in the late ‘80s through the late ‘90s, the members wanted to organize themselves in a more structured way to be a stronger contributor to Texas A&M and instrument that got involved with more than just the social side of being an Aggie. The BFSN was the first Constituent Network of the Association of Former Students.

**What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?**

Relationship building of its members through networking and social activities. Support of the current students through financial assistance and mentoring. Support of the university in recruitment and retention of Black students at Texas A&M.

**How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?**

Annual Summit. Typically in February. The BFSN Summit is a weekend event that typically starts Thursday evening with an opening reception and goes through Sunday. Activities include: university updates and reviews from TAMU administration, special workshops, community service, and banquet. TAMU Administration, faculty, BFSN members and non-members are all invited to attend.

**How can someone interested in the Black Former Student Network get involved?**

To get involved, contact our Membership Chair Tashara Adams Robinson ’94 at tadams@cisorg.com. Visit us on Facebook as well.

**What can you say to help convince them to get involved?**

“If you’re on the sideline, get in the game! Aggies don’t sit on the sideline, they’re usually in the game!”

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**Bush School Former Student Network**

_Q&A with Kathryn Grandstaff ’09_

**Whom does the Bush School Former Student Network serve?**

The Bush School Former Student Network provides graduates of the Bush School an opportunity to connect with each other in addition to current students and faculty.

**Why is it important to the members of the Bush School Former Student Network to make connections with one another?**

Bush School graduates tend to pursue careers in international studies, government and public policy, therefore Bush School FSN members live and work throughout the U.S. and internationally. Providing these graduates a connection to fellow local members through our
regional groups and back to Aggieland lends a strong support system to all our members, allowing them the resources to network and reconnect with other former students.

**What’s the Bush School Former Student Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?**

The purpose of The Network is to increase the supply of highly competent, highly ethical, and highly dedicated public servants throughout the world educated at the Bush School. The FSN aims to accomplish this by encouraging the continued flow of outstanding student candidates to the Bush School, assisting the Bush School in keeping its curriculum and educational programs relevant to the current needs of public policy practitioners by communicating with the School administration, and serving as a comprehensive support network within the Texas A&M system for current and former students as they pursue their careers. As a result, the FSN promotes the visibility of the Bush School and maintains continued interest of former students in the success of the Bush School and Texas A&M.

**Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?**

The FSN was generated to provide current and former students the opportunity to directly influence the success and growth of the Bush School through expansion of the Aggie Network, enhancement of education opportunities for current students, and continued professional development for former and current students. Chartered in July 2008, The Bush School Former Students Network is the first college-affiliated Constituent Network of The Association of Former Students.

**What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?**

The Bush School FSN continually develops interest in the success of the Bush School and Texas A&M through active membership. As a result, the FSN engages Bush School graduates to participate in the happenings of Aggieland and those of the The Association of Former Students.

**How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?**

Our regional groups host between two and six events per month; more if it’s football season! FSN regional groups host regular monthly happy hours and mixers in all of the major cities where our network is located - Washington DC, Austin, Houston, Dallas, NYC, and College Station.

**How can someone interested in the Bush School Former Student Network get involved?**

Former students interested in the Bush School FSN should contact the FSN Board by e-mailing us at GBSFormerStudentNetwork@gmail.com, on Twitter @41stClub or finding us on Facebook under "Bush School Former Student Network." Interested graduates may also find their FSN regional representatives on our new website at http://gbsfsn.aggienetwork.com/drupal/.

**What can you say to help convince them to get involved?**

Bush School graduates can be involved in the FSN in a variety of ways from volunteering to serve on committees to hosting local events. Participation in the FSN allows a direct connection back to the Bush School and A&M.

**Do you have a story that does a good job of describing what the network’s all about?**

Every summer, Bush School MPSA students are required to attain an internship in public service. The FSN is crucial to welcoming the interns into new cities and ensuring that they have a network for social activities and professional support. By providing the interns this supportive network, the interns are prompted to pursue careers in public service and participate as active members of the FSN once they have graduated.
What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?

Prospective Bush School students whose applications meet certain requirements are invited to attend Interview Conference Weekend. This invitational event allows the prospective program students to meet faculty, as well as current and former students. Interview Conference Weekend (ICW) is a wonderful opportunity for prospective students to engage with fellow prospective students. ICW is the first time many of the student candidates visit Aggieland and the Bush School ensures that the weekend is full of welcoming memories.

Greek Former Student Network
Q&A with Will Oliver ’91

Whom does the Greek Former Student Network serve?
We serve The Association of Former Students interest in connecting with former students who share the unique background of being both Greek and Aggies. It allows us to break down our Aggie experience into a smaller commonality in hopes that we can bridge the gap back to Texas A&M University for Greek former students.

Why is it important to the members of the Greek Former Student Network to make connections with one another?
First and foremost, it is important for all Aggies to connect with each other despite their different affinities. However, sharing a common experience of being Greek will lend itself to a lifetime commitment to both Texas A&M and their individual Greek organizations. The Greek experience, like being an Aggie, is not just a three or four year commitment.

What’s the Greek Former Student Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?
Our primary purpose is to assist in furthering the purposes of and participation in The Association of Former Students by engaging Greek former students and friends. Nationally Greeks give back to their universities at a higher percentage of either their volunteer time or monetarily. We believe this trend will hold true here at Texas A&M.

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?
Greeks have represented the largest number of students on campus for over 20 years. We are the fastest growing group of former students. Having a place for Greeks to come together was important and needed. The Association for Former Students recognizes the importance of allowing people to identify themselves not only as Aggies, but to the affinity groups within the Aggie former student community.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?
We are a young Constituent Network, so we are still defining the difference we will contribute to the Aggie Network. For now just giving Greeks the understanding that we are valuable part of the Aggie family is important.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?
Since we are only 1 year old, we have only had a few events. We just had our second annual Aggie Greek Weekend during the Idaho game weekend. We have also had a few receptions in the larger cities in Texas including Austin, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and Fort Worth. We will continue to evaluate new opportunities and events for us to bring Greek former students together.
How can someone interested in the Greek Former Student Network get involved?

The easiest way is to go to www.AggieGreeks.com or our landing page on the Aggie Network at AggieNetwork.com/Greeks. You can sign up for our List Serve on either site or simply send an email to AggieGreeks@AggieNetwork.com. We highly encourage anyone and everyone to join us. There is a place and a project for all who want to help.

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?

In the year that we have been together we have formed new bonds and friendships around the common thread of being Aggie Greek former students. We are all Aggies first! Having both the Aggie and Greek backgrounds gives our community an additional bond and common interest. Getting back involved is simply fun and important for our future.

Federation of Texas A&M University Mother’s Clubs
Q&A with Dawn Powell & Melinda Weiblen

Whom does the Federation of Texas A&M University Mother’s Clubs serve?

M.W.: The Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers’ Clubs is committed to serve all of the Aggie Mothers’ Clubs throughout the United States and Qatar, the students attending TAMU and TAMUG, the University and campus organizations. Aggie Moms are definitely a very unique group of moms. We are the first organization of its kind and the only University Mothers’ Club in the United States. Whether they belong to a local club or participate through our Adopta-Mom program when there is not a club in their area, they are committed to provide financial assistance to the students attending TAMU and TAMUG, the University and Student Organizations.

Why is it important to the members of the Federation to make connections with one another?

M.W.: Today, as in years past, Aggie Moms continues to remain a time honored tradition and are centrally focused in providing support for all Aggie Moms, fellowship and financial assistance for all Aggies. The Federation hosts three meetings a year, The Fall, The Winter and the Spring Meeting are intended to keep all the clubs updated and to share information pertaining to fund-raising and maintaining our 501 (c) (3) as an organization. D P.: So much of what we do involves personal support for each other. We’re always looking for ways to connect to share ideas. Networking among clubs is critical to our continued success. Today, as in years past, Aggie Moms continue to remain a time-honored tradition and are centrally focused in providing support for all Aggie Moms, fellowship and financial assistance for all Aggies. The Federation hosts three meetings a year. The Fall, the Winter and the Spring Meetings are intended to keep all the clubs updated and to share information pertaining to fundraising and maintaining our 501(c)(3) as an organization.

What’s the Federation of Texas A&M University Mother’s Clubs’ driving purpose? Mission statement?

D.P.: Our earliest roots and founding purpose was - and remains to this day - to encourage high moral, ethical and academic standards. Our mission statement clearly incorporates these values. M.W: Since the founding of this organization in 1922, the purpose remains the same “By individual and united effort to contribute in every way to the comfort and welfare of the students, and to cooperate with Texas A&M University in maintaining high standards of moral conduct and intellectual attainment.”
Do you know why did this group of Aggie Moms decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?

M.W.: This organization was founded in February 1922 by Mrs. Ada Peoples of Dallas, Texas with the purpose of assisting our Aggies in succeeding and obtaining a higher education. She recognized the need for “parental guidance and continued ties to home” to ensure a happy and successful college career for the students. Aggie Moms all have one thing in common and that is we are all proud of our sons and daughters attending TAMU and TAMUG one of the top University’s that still maintain to obtain a higher education.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

M.W.: Our organization has grown over the last 90 years. In the spirit of unity and cooperation Aggie Moms have turned that original vision by Mrs. Peoples into a reality. It is through our combined efforts that we have donated over 7 million dollars to Texas A&M University to assist our Aggies. Just as our Aggies have that common bond, so do our Aggie Moms.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?

M.W.: Per the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers’ Clubs bylaws we meet three times a year on the campus of The University of Texas A&M for our business meetings, workshops and District Meetings to which all Aggie Moms are invited. In addition, the Federation Executive board meets in the summer for a weekend of planning for the New Year. Per Article IV of the Federation Bylaws the business meetings of this organization will be held as follows: The fall business meeting will be held on the Saturday preceding the first day of the Fall semester classes. The winter business meeting will be held on the Saturday following the first day of the Spring semester classes. The Winter Federation Meeting also includes our District Meetings, which allows all of the clubs to come together to become familiar with Texas A&M University, to support their Aggies through network of sharing ideas for fundraisers and to form lasting friendships with other Aggie Moms. The spring business meetings will be held on the Friday and Saturday of Parents’ Weekend. In conjunction with our business meetings we also have a Presidents Dinner the Friday night before the meeting, which all Aggie Moms are invited. We are honored that Dr. Loftin, president of The University of Texas A&M, school officials and special guests of the University attend the dinner. Aggie Mom Camp, which is better known as Aggie Mom Fish Camp is a new tradition of Aggie Moms. This is annual event that takes place in October or November. Aggie Moms gather to learn more about Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers’ Clubs, Texas A&M University, make new friends through our network. Valerie Sheppard is our AMC camp chair this year. AMC camp will be held November 14th – 16th, at the Best Western Atrea, Old Town Center in College Station.

How can someone interested in the Federation of Texas A&M University Mother’s Clubs get involved?

D.P.: Our local clubs form the framework of our organization. Each club has its own activities, fundraisers and social events based on its membership needs. Each of our Board members is also a representative from a local club. Our website provides information on each Federation officer, each of our local clubs and an officer contact from the club. Our 8th VP also works finding "homes" for moms who want to get connected if there isn't a local club in a particular area. M.W.: In conjunction with Texas A&M University New Student Conferences our Federation 8th Vice President, hosts parent socials for all the incoming Aggies and Parents
who are attending orientation on campus. Family members and students are introduced to our
organization and provided information on becoming an Aggie Mom and information of clubs
they can join in their area. Our Federation website: www.aggiemoms.org in also an excellent
link to reaching out and providing our Moms updated information.

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?

D.P.: On a personal level, my very best friends are friends that I've met through
Aggie Moms. They love their families and A&M - and they're passionate about supporting
their kids (students) toward their chosen career goals. I think our students are successful
because they've had hard work and perseverance modeled for them at home. A&M is a
place where those values that have been taught at home are strengthened and solidified.
Our organization exemplifies the same excellence and service values that A&M stands for.

M.W.: By joining an Aggie Moms Club and getting involved with the club, Moms will
experience a network of friends and contacts that will not be experienced anywhere else…and
the friendships will be lifelong friends. It is a privilege and honor to serve as Federation
President for 2011-2012. I am honored to be part of an organization that is committed to
supporting the students, programs and campus traditions at Texas A&M University. Aggie
Moms all over the world have been instrumental in establishing a solid foundation for this
organization and making a difference for the students and University by providing financial
assistance.

Do you have a story that does a good job of describing what the network’s all about?

M.W.: I became a proud Aggie Fish Mom in 1999; this was the year the bonfire fell. I
will never forget in the early morning of November 18, 1999, receiving a phone call from our
son, Jarrett stating “Mom the stack fell…I am OK but some of my buddies were badly injured
and are in the hospital. Please come.” Jarrett’s buddy was Timothy Doran Kerlee, Jr. from
Squadron 16. I recall as if it was yesterday…In the midst of such a tragedy, I was truly amazed
by the outpouring of love and support our family received from the Aggie Family. In the depths
of this tragedy, I witnessed firsthand the Aggie Spirit and the bond that can never be broken by
these Aggies and Aggie Moms. The cohesiveness of coming together as the Aggie Family was
truly a blessing. The Moms of this organization continue to amaze me by giving their heart and
soul to supporting one another, our Aggies and this great University.

Texas A&M Hispanic Network

Q&A with Francisco Maldonado ’99

Who does the Texas A&M Hispanic Network serve?

Texas A&M University and all former students, however, we have an emphasis on
connecting with Hispanic former students.

Why is it important to the members of the Hispanic Former Student Network to make
connections with one another?

The Aggie Network is one of the greatest benefits of being part of the Texas A&M
family. Making connections with other former students helps us find ways to give back to the
University that has given each of us so much. Whether it’s as a financial contribution, or as a
mentor, or as a volunteer for a recruiting event—the Hispanic Network is committed to
spreading the Aggie message across Texas and the nation about how great our university is.

What’s the Texas A&M Hispanic Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?

"The mission of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network is to serve as an advocate and
support group on Hispanic concerns and issues at the University and local communities within
the larger Association of Former Students organization. The Texas A&M Hispanic Network shall dynamically work towards increasing the number of Hispanic students attending Texas A&M University (TAMU), and enhancing their experience, education, and quality of life on campus."

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a constituent network?

The TAMHN was created in response to former President Gates' Vision 2020 goals. Specifically, Imperative 6 regarding diversity and increasing diversity in the student body, faculty, and staff at Texas A&M. The Hispanic Network has focused on increasing Hispanic enrollment at Texas A&M making connections with prospective students and families to encourage them to attend Texas A&M. The Prospective Student Centers have been essential in making this happen. As a result, Hispanic enrollment at Texas A&M has increased every year and we are encouraged by these gains. At the same time, there is still much work to be done to reach the goals of Vision 2020.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

We provide financial and professional assistance (mentoring) to incoming and current Hispanic students at Texas A&M. This past year we gave out the first ever TAMHN Scholarship named in honor of our Commandant, Brig. Gen. Joe E. Ramirez, ’79. In addition to our emphasis on academic scholarships, we provided financial assistance to incoming students through Fish Camp scholarships, as well as donations to Hispanic student organizations on campus as they promote programs and leadership opportunities for Hispanic students.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past reunions?

We have monthly regional meetings as well as an annual Summit that takes place in September.

How can someone interested in the Texas A&M Hispanic Network get involved?

They can get involved by contacting us via e-mail and we can direct them to their regional director. We have five major regions: Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley.

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?

We have an obligation to give back to the University and help current and future students get the best education in the nation at Texas A&M University. The demographic trends demand that there be a greater participation in higher education by Hispanics. As this new generation of Aggies comes forward, we want to assure that, all students, regardless of background, have the opportunity to bleed maroon. This cannot be done without the help and participation of former students. If someone wants to get involved, we have a way they can do it.

What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?

My grandfather was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico and came to the United States as a young boy with his uncles in the early 1900s. No money, no visas, just an empty train car headed north & the desire to have a better life in the United States. They literally lived in a field when they got here and, eventually, were "allowed" to live in the barn on the land they worked around Chriesman, Texas. He taught himself English by writing and copying passages from the Bible he had with him and always stressed education-- despite not attending formal school himself. All of his children graduated high school, and his oldest, my Uncle Frank, served in Vietnam, and is Class of 1975.
My grandfather passed away when I was only 5, but when I got my senior boots, it was his name that was branded on the inside of them instead of mine -- boots that went from New York to New Orleans as a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band Class of 1999. When I put them on the last time for graduation, just miles from the field that he lived in and the Texas land he worked so we could have a better life, I thanked him and knew that this could only happen in America, and it took place at the best place in the world: Texas A&M University. As an attorney with my own practice, I owe so much to Texas A&M and the Corp of Cadets -- and it was Texas A&M University that helped turn the dream of a young boy from Mexico into reality and made our family part of the Aggie family.

Texas Aggie Catholic Network

Q&A with Debra Richmond '05

Whom does the Texas Aggie Catholic Network serve?

The Texas Aggie Catholic Network exists to serve current Aggie Catholic Students looking to keep and deepen their faith in college, Former Students as they move away from Aggieland and get settled into the “real” world, Aggie Catholic Parents who want to know that their child can keep their faith in college, and the Aggie Catholic Faculty here at Texas A&M University looking for a spiritual home!

Why is it important to the members of the Texas Aggie Catholic Network to make connections with one another?

Our Catholic faith is about joining together in the Body of Christ. We do not worship alone, and want to share information about local churches, schools and programs, and allow the Aggie Spirit and the Holy Spirit to work through us to change the world.

What’s the Texas Aggie Catholic Network’s driving purpose? Mission statement?

The mission of the Texas Aggie Catholic Network is to help build a community among Aggie Catholics in cities across Texas and eventually the US where they can network, socialize and build camaraderie with those of the same faith and beliefs.

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?

On the campus of Texas A&M, St. Mary’s Catholic Center and the Aggie Catholics are a well-known group of more than 25 percent of the student body. When students leave Texas A&M, many move to Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, and beyond, and they do not have this same spiritual network. In the same way that the Association of Former Students exists to keep Aggies up-to-date on all the great things happening on campus, the Texas Aggie Catholic Network exists to help keep Catholic Former Students, Parents and friends up-to-date on all the amazing things happening at St. Mary’s Catholic Center and through the Catholic Students Association on campus.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

As a member of the Aggie Catholic Network once said “It brings together my two favorite things – my love of the Catholic faith and my love for Texas A&M.” That is what the Aggie Catholic Network does--it gives Aggies another point of connection with their school through their connection with their faith.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?

In the last two years, we have had Aggie Catholic Gatherings in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Hallettsville/Shiner, and Dallas/Fort Worth, and are planning to be back in Houston in
February of 2012. At the events, we begin with Mass, usually at the Cathedral in the city we are visiting, and then follow with a dinner reception where Aggie Catholics have a chance to reunite and hear about what is happening in College Station. At the Houston event in 2010, it was the first large event we had hosted there in about 10 years. It was so great to see Aggies from so many different generations come together and reminisce on their time in Aggieland and at St. Mary’s, and to see who had gotten married, had children, and had children or grandchildren ready to come to A&M. So many people gathered to celebrate their faith in conjunction with their school was truly a blessing, and many of them asked that we make it a yearly event! We plan to have these events on a more frequent basis, and are returning to Houston this spring.

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?
I would say what was said above – this brings together my two favorite things, my love of my Catholic faith and my love for Texas A&M. Not all of our gatherings are religious services, but there is always an understanding and connection that you are with people of the same beliefs and convictions, both those instilled by Texas A&M and those instilled by the Catholic faith. Lastly, through your prayers and support, you are continuing the legacy for the Aggie Catholics on campus today and those who will be here tomorrow; you are helping us create leaders for the Church and the world. God Bless and Gig ‘Em!

Do you have a story that does a good job of describing what the network’s all about?
Each year as students graduate, I get emails asking questions such as, “I’m moving to Houston where I know about five people. Where is a good place to go to church that will have a similar feel to St. Mary’s, are there groups of Aggies or Aggie Catholics who I can hang out with and get involved with?” etc. The Aggie Catholic Network wants to make sure that not only do we foster the students spiritual well being in Aggieland, but that we help them start the next chapter of their lives on solid ground as well. Our hope is to give them Groups to plug into so they can feel a sense of belonging and know they have people around them they can connect with.

What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?
This is a hard question! I am Aggie Class of 2005, but a favorite memory would probably be from my Freshman year – 2001. For the Red, White and Blue out game, my friends and I had seats on the front row of 3rd Deck just above the old score boards that hung there. The game was electric and the stands decked out in Red, White and Blue were one of the most amazing things I had ever seen. I don’t think any of us realized what had been accomplished that day – patriotism, logistics, and pride. And to watch the Aggie Football team match the excitement of that crowd was amazing. It was THAT DAY that I knew I had made the right choice in coming to Texas A&M.

Texas Aggie Bar Association
Q&A with Ross Robinson ‘88
Whom does the Texas Aggie Bar Association serve?
The Texas Aggie Bar Association (TABA) aims to serve Aggie lawyers and law students and provide programs and initiatives that support Aggies in the legal profession.
Why is it important to the members of the Texas Aggie Bar Association to make connections with one another?
TABA provides opportunities for Aggie lawyers and law students to network and support one another in the practice and study of law and contribute to the larger Aggie Network.
What’s the Texas Aggie Bar Association’s driving purpose? Mission statement?
The mission statement of the TABA is: Expanding the Aggie Network in the legal community while providing scholarship opportunities for future Aggie attorneys.

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a Constituent Network?

Becoming a Constituent Network has provided additional opportunities for us to serve our members and pursue the mission of the TABA.

What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

TABA provides another touch point and connection among Aggies in the legal field and helps to strengthen the Aggie Network as a whole.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past Reunions?

The TABA regularly hosts social events in major Texas cities, an annual tailgate party at one of the home football games, and an annual conference, CLE, and banquet at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. The Aggie Lawyer of the Year is honored at the annual conference.

How can someone interested in the Texas Aggie Bar Association get involved?

Any Aggie lawyer, law student, or prospective law student may be a member of TABA. For more information, go to www.aggielaw.org. Any TABA board member identified on the TABA website is available to answer questions.

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?

TABA provides students and lawyers an easy way to connect with each other, network, support Aggie law students, and maintain a connection to Texas A&M.

Do you have a story that does a good job of describing what the network’s all about?

I am working on this one. I'll let you know if I come up with something.

What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?

Some of my fondest memories are centered around events that happened at Crocker Hall during the three years I lived there. I had a friend from high school who was a year ahead of me. I came to visit him my senior year of high school and stayed with him in Crocker for the weekend. After that weekend, I knew that I wanted to live in Crocker. Upon my arrival at A&M, I quickly learned that it would be impossible to study in my room. That is what the library was for. However, there was never a shortage of camaraderie and fun on the third floor of Crocker in the event I did not want to study that night!

Texas A&M Medical & Dental Society

Q&A with Mark D. Barhorst, M.D. ’86 & ’88

Whom does the Texas A&M Medical & Dental Society serve?

The MedDent Society serves the undergraduate students of TAMU who seek professional training in medicine or dentistry.

Why is it important to the members of the Texas A&M Medical & Dental Society to make connections with one another?

The importance of membership in the society is primarily found in its mission, which is to create scholarships for deserving undergraduates seeking professional training in medicine and dentistry. The opportunity to give back to these students, as a former student who received a helping hand and excellent education themselves at TAMU in the past, is why I myself am a member.

What’s the Texas A&M Medical & Dental Society’s driving purpose? Mission statement?
The mission of the society is very simple: Create scholarships through membership dues. Operating costs are nearly zero, so what is given is re-given to deserving students identified by the TAMU professional school counseling staff.

**Do you know why this group of Aggies decided to connect by creating a constituent network?**

The reasons behind membership decisions are variable. Some do so in honor of another, others purely to give back to the university they love and are gratefully generous toward. Most want to help students bear the burden of the higher costs of education today more easily.

**What is it that the network does that helps make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?**

The Aggie Network is like a woven blanket, made up of many threads. The blanket cannot exist without the threads. We all play a part in the blanket, and all benefit from its warmth. The bigger the blanket, the more it can warm.

**How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past reunions?**

The society meets every fall, usually on a home game weekend, and in conjunction with a College of Science event, to award the scholarships for that year and share in a meal and fellowship. We call it tailgating. Others call it BBQ. This year it’s the Missouri game weekend.

**How can someone interested in the Texas A&M Medical & Dental Society get involved?**

Interested persons can join through the web site, AggieDocs.org. Its painless to join, priceless to enjoy the opportunity to help deserving students.

**What can you say to help convince them to get involved?**

Joining this society has helped fulfill the professional dreams of many students. One of them could impact your life in a way you cannot imagine through their healing gift. These students are exceptional people, and they will make meaningful contributions to society through their health professional careers.

**What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?**

My favorite memories of my time at TAMU are ever changing. BTHO Baylor just recently joined the ongoing list. The warm feeling I get every time my wife and I drive into Aggieland is like being home after a trip. It just feels right! Sharing Aggie experiences with two Aggie children, and having the time and treasure to give back to this incredible university are two of my greatest earthly desires.

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**Women Former Students’ Network**

*Q&A with Sandra Paret ’80 and Melanie Cheairs ’85*

**Whom does the Women Former Students’ Network serve?**

S.P. & M.C.: We serve all women former students, through networking, involvement with our colleges, and supporting each other in life and career issues unique to women. In addition, we support the current women students by giving back with scholarships, mentoring and participation in our college’s activities.

**Why is it important to the members of the Women Former Students’ Network to make connections with one another?**

S.P. & M.C.: Most importantly, once an Aggie, always an Aggie. It is important for us to connect with one another so that we can collectively share experiences and wisdom with the current students of what helped us succeed at A&M and on into our chosen profession and personal paths. Also, it helps us to remember what the school did for each of us, how we have a common “upbringing” and reminds us to give back. In addition, it also gives us a way to be on the lookout for job opportunities, provide referrals to each other, and to meet other Aggie women
that can help build our professional careers.

What's the Network's driving purpose? Mission statement?

S.P. & M.C.: Mission Statement: The mission of the Women Former Students' shall be to enhance the excellence of Texas A&M University by promoting the active engagement of women in the educational, charitable, and cultural life of the institution. The mission shall be witnessed through increased engagement of women former students in academic, research and service activities; through their expanded role as mentors of current women students, and future generations of women students; and through their increased philanthropic ties to the university and the Association of Former Students. In the representation of its membership and in all its activities, the Network shall strive to value and promote inclusiveness and diversity.

Do you know why did this group of Aggies decide to connect by creating a constituent network?

S.P. & M.C.: The group connected around the 45th anniversary of the doors being opened for women to be admitted to A&M, our presence strengthening the academic and cultural life of the institution and making a permanent mark on the history of the institution. The formation of a Legacy Fund was the inaugural activity, raising funds for a President’s Endowed Scholarship for women at A&M. We’re now working on our second PES.

What does the Women Former Students’ Network do to help make a difference in the overall Aggie Network?

S.P. & M.C.: In addition to those already active, we are engaging women in A&M that didn’t necessarily relate to traditional means of re-connecting, for example sports or local Aggie Clubs. We are broadening the circle that is involved in giving back by providing practical support for current women students along with financial support through scholarships. We are also able to create friendships we otherwise wouldn't have through other networks with women who share a common love for Texas A&M.

How often do your members get together? Can you give me an example of one of your past reunions?

S.P. & M.C.: We have regional Networking Events, where we get together for social and professional networking opportunities. Some of our regional groups meet monthly for happy hour. Our Board meets monthly by telephone, and in person 2-3 times a year, including our annual Legacy Awards Luncheon, usually with an additional learning session for the members. We also bestow an annual WFSN Legacy Award and are hoping to award our first Eminent Scholar (Faculty Award) next year.

How can someone interested in the Women Former Students’ Network get involved?

S.P. & M.C.: Anyone can go to our website www.aggiewomen.org, or through the AFS for contact information. Women can become members of the organization and have access to all our activities, they can serve on committees, help with/attend events or serve on the Board, either as Committee chairs or members, or as an officer. They can be on our Aggie Women Experts List, shared with the Colleges or participate in our mentoring program. In addition, they can contribute philanthropically to our events and scholarships so that we can continue to evolve the organization, there are lots of opportunities to be involved!

What can you say to help convince them to get involved?

M.C.: I love having these women in my life who otherwise I'd have never known. A&M gave me the opportunities of a lifetime, I owe it to my school to give some of that back. I hope everyone would consider what being an Aggie means out in the world and do their part to continue that legacy. S.P.: My Aggie experience is even richer now than ever before, I still have
my circle of friends from when I was in school, but now that circle has broadened to include classes from the 1960’s to current students. If I can share a bit of the opportunity that lies before the bright, talented women coming out of A&M, I know they will achieve great things, I hope other Aggie Women feel the same way.  

**Do you have a story that does a good job of describing what your Network’s all about?**  

**M.C.:** I have secured a speaking role for a member of our group at an international law conference because we share the WFSN. I have been able to use what I have garnered from the WFSN in other Women's initiative groups that I participate in.  

**S.P.:** I think it really is about the professional and personal connections we make. I’ve met so many women that have helped meet someone I needed to know, find a resource or get introduced to something engaging, it’s so refreshing! Of course going to basketball games to support our National Champion Aggie Women’s Basketball Team is one definitely highlight, thanks to the generous support of Coach Gary Blair and his staff.  

**What is your favorite memory from your time as a student at Texas A&M?**  

**M.C.:** My favorite memories of being at A&M are representing the entire university at a national level by being a member of the NCAA. Div 1 Fightin' Texas Aggie Women's Swim Team!  

**S.P.:** I could say bonfire, football games, intramural sports, so many things that make being a part of A&M great, but my favorite memories are of the all-nighters in the Architecture building, working on projects with my fellow students thinking that a whole bright world was out there for us to design. A&M instilled in us the limitless possibilities of our contributions to society and growing up in that environment is priceless…