

Former Student Group Serves College Well

By KITT POHORELSKY
Battalion Special Writer
Who is responsible for the Memorial Student Center, the All Faiths Chapel, class reunions and the senior class barbecue?

The Association of Former Students, that's who.
The Association of Former Students is a non-profit organization chartered by the State of Texas. It was organized as a unified force to serve Texas A&M and its students, and to maintain and nurture the lifelong friendships made on the campus.

All students who have enrolled in a regular course offered by the University and who have graduated or otherwise left school are automatically members of the Association, regardless of their length of study.

At the present time, approximately 43,000 are members of the Association and about 1,200 new members are added to the rolls each year. They live in all states and in many foreign countries. They represent all age groups, religious, and political beliefs, and economic levels.

THE ASSOCIATION has grown from a small organization created in 1879 named "The Association of Ex-Cadets" through a series of reorganizations to its present stage of development.

The Association Council is the top governing body of the group. It meets semiannually on the campus, usually in May and September. The Council is made up of senatorial representatives, at-large representatives, class agents, A&M Club representatives, past presidents, Executive Board members and officers of the senior class and the president of the junior class.

The Executive Board is elected by the Council to look after detailed affairs of the Association's program. It usually meets five times a year and constitutes officers, including the president, vice-president, secretary - treasurer, past president, six members, and district vice-presidents.

The nerve center of this worldwide organization, the headquarters office, is located on campus. A staff of three men including the Executive Secretary, Assistant Secretary, editor of the *Texas Aggie* and seven ladies perform all record keeping,

administrative, communications, and clerical functions of the organization.

A MAJOR PART of the Association, the Development Fund, is the means through which former students, through voluntary gifts, provide things for the University and its students which are needed yet cannot be provided from state funds.

There are no dues for membership, so members make a gift each year to the Development Fund. Donors receive the official Association publication, the *Texas Aggie*, which is published monthly.

The first major accomplishment of the fund was the initiation of a fund for the construction of the Memorial Student Center. The establishment of the Opportunity Award Scholarship Program in 1946 was the first major scholarship program of its type undertaken in the Southwest. One hundred awards a year are provided from gifts of former students.

Another achievement of the Development Fund is the All-Faiths Chapel given to the University by the Association. The Faculty Achievement Award Program was begun in 1955 to honor, recognize and reward the classroom teacher for outstanding service to the students. The Association also supported construction of the campus swimming pool.

Texas A&M Clubs are a major part of the Association program. Of 180 clubs in operation, 130 are located in Texas, 40 in other states, and 10 in foreign countries. The clubs interpret the mission and purposes of A&M to the general citizenship of the city or county in which they operate.

They also encourage students to enroll and provide information for summer jobs for students and for permanent jobs for graduates.

FOOTBALL FILMS are made available to clubs through another Association program. Clubs may subscribe to all games or they may select as few as they desire for any season.

Because of its character and time-honored traditions, Texas A&M has developed a strong class program in its student life. It follows naturally that this strong class affiliation should carry on

after graduation even into the later years of its members.

Usually, the officers of the class, elected in the senior year while on campus carry on as permanent officers. The class agents are elected by the general election in the spring before the class graduates. He remains in office for 10 years.

The Class Reunion Program generally operates on a five-year plan, with the first reunion scheduled 10 years after graduation followed by a reunion every five years thereafter. Reunions are held in the fall—both on campus during football games and in other cities where the Aggies are playing.

THE CLASSES which have been graduated from the University 50 years or more have formed the Sul Ross group with its own officers and bylaws.

This group was originally made up of the classes graduated or in school when Lawrence Sullivan Ross was president of A&M from 1892-1902. In order to perpetuate the group, they elected to take in the fifty-year class each year as an honor class. The Sul Ross group holds a reunion annually on the campus, usually in May.

The official publication of the Association of Former Students is the *Texas Aggie*, a monthly newspaper. Its purposes are to enrich and enlighten a constructive interest in the University among former students. It is sent to all former students who continue to contribute to the Development Fund.

STUDENT LOANS are available to aid students in obtaining education at A&M through the student loan fund of the Association.

The Aggie Club and the Federation of Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs are other aspects of the Association. The Aggie Club is a nonprofit corporation chartered by the state of Texas. Its principal purpose is to seek, encourage, and promote support for the athletic program.

The Mothers' Clubs contribute to the comfort and welfare of the students, and cooperate with the University faculty in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment.

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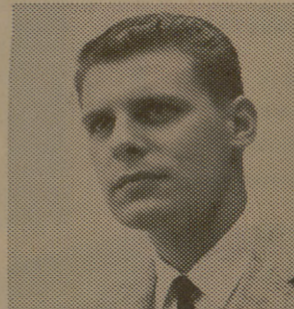
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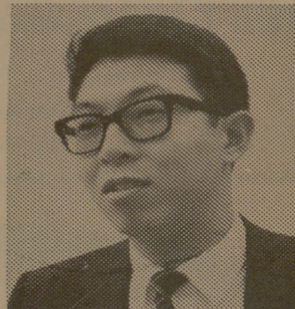
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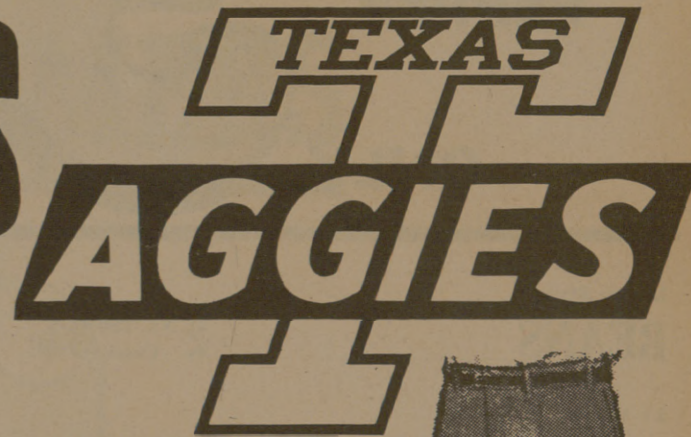
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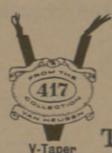
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